

Upland Game Bird Regulations Meeting Region 7

Brett Dorak

Region 7 – Wildlife Manager
Dawson Community College

1/16/24



Steward the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources for the public, now and into the future.

Process

- Listening
- Biological data
- Conceptual ideas
- **Public review – June 15 through July 15**
- Refinement
- Recommendation
- **Public comment – 4 weeks in October and November**
- **Pulled from December 14, 2023, Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting**
- **Public Comment Period open until January 23, 2024**
- **Adoption – February 16, 2024**



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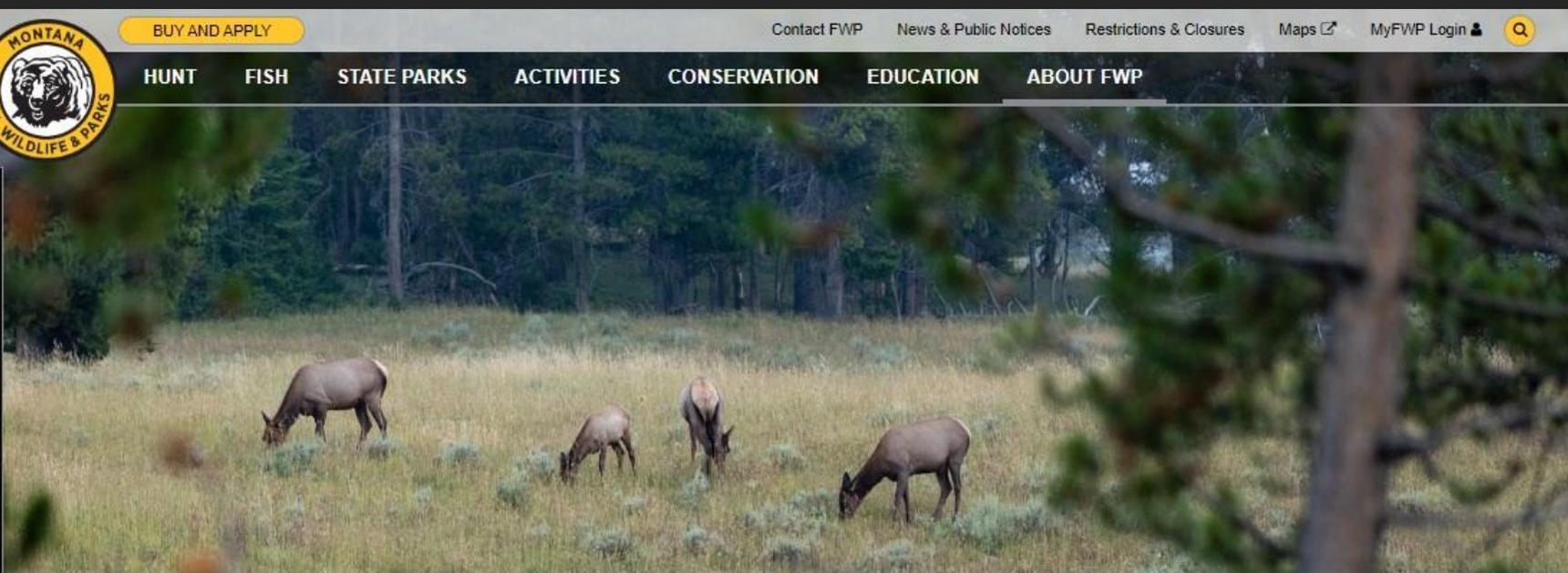
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MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

What's happening today with the Fish and Wildlife Commission

Upcoming Meeting

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will meet next on February 16

[MEETING DETAILS >](#)

Previous meeting

The Fish and Wildlife Commission met on December 14

[AGENDA & RECORDING >](#)

Special Meeting

The Commission will hold a special meeting, Dec. 15 to review harvest and quota for WMU 313

[SEE AGENDA >](#)

Special Meeting

The Commission held a special meeting for Open Meetings Process training Dec. 13

[MEETING RECORDING >](#)





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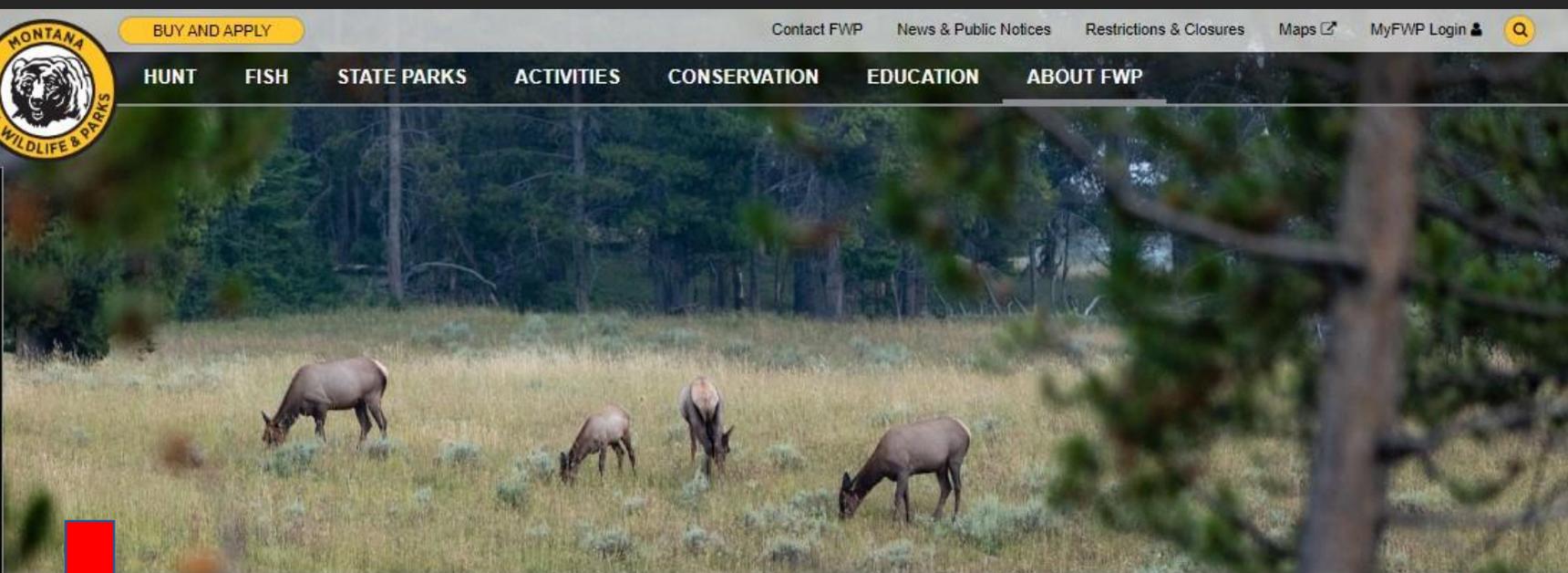
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FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

When: Friday, February 16 at 8:30 a.m.

Where: Montana State Capitol, Room 317, and virtually via Zoom

Public Meetings to Discuss Proposed Upland Game Bird and Turkey Hunting Regulations

In preparation for the February meeting, FWP will host two virtual and in-person public meetings in Glendive and Scobey state to present proposed hunting regulations. FWP staff will present proposed 2024 upland game bird seasons and regulations, along with recent trends in upland game bird populations, harvest, and hunting pressure.

- [Meeting schedule](#)

Public Comment

The public comment period for the the following topics will begin December 26, 2023. Comments will be accepted *through January 23, 2024*, with final action at the February commission meeting.

Get Updates!

To sign up to receive email or text notifications for FWP news and public notices, please click on this link:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTFWP/subscribe/new>

FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - WINTER 2024



LAKE TROUT REMOVAL - SWAN LAKE



BLACK BEAR SEASON SETTING



UPLAND GAME BIRD SEASON SETTING & BIRD DOG TRAINING



SAGE GROUSE TRANSLOCATION



BLOCK MANAGEMENT ARM RULE



ELK HUNTING ACCESS ARM RULE



PEREGRINE FALCON 2024-2025 BIENNIUM



Note:

The commission may take action on all matters specifically noticed on any agenda.

Extensive opportunity is provided for public comment on hunting, fishing and trapping regulations. As a matter of equity for citizens who cannot attend commission meetings, when making final decisions on these regulations, the commission will not open public comment unless a significant amendment to the tentative proposal is brought forth by the commission or department. Comments will be limited to the amendment only. Time for comment may be limited at the Chair's discretion.

The department ensures its meetings are fully accessible to persons with disabilities and if special accommodations are needed, please contact the Commission Coordinator in the Director's Office at 406-444-7826 or by cell at 406-594-8921.



2024 UPLAND GAME BIRD REGULATIONS - PUBLIC MEETINGS



MENU
≡

FWP will host two meetings in January to discuss proposed 2024 upland game bird hunting regulations

FWP staff will present proposed 2024 upland game bird seasons and regulations, along with recent trends in upland game bird populations, harvest, and hunting pressure. The meetings are being held in Glendive and Scobey, as eastern Montana attracts many resident and nonresident upland gamebird hunters.

Proposals

- [2024 Upland Game Bird and Turkey Hunting Season Proposals \(PDF\)](#)

Public Meetings

The purpose of the meetings is to share information and answer questions about the proposed regulations. All meetings will be both in person and virtual via Zoom.

- **Jan. 16, Glendive from 6-8 p.m.**

Dawson Community College, Ullman Center Room 102

- [Virtual Option: Zoom login](#)
- [Webinar ID: 857 2093 5793](#)
- [Passcode: 488380](#)

- **Jan. 17, Scobey from 6-8 p.m.**

Scobey public schools, 205 2nd Ave. East - go through the main doors in the commons area

- [Virtual Option: Zoom login](#)
- [Webinar ID: 838 2518 6514](#)
- [Passcode: 585167](#)

Public Comment Opportunity

Public comment will not be taken at the above meetings, but you can comment online.

Deadline: [Public comments are due by January 23](#)

[COMMENT ONLINE](#)



MONTANA FWP

LAKE TROUT REMOVAL - SWAN LAKE



BLACK BEAR SEASON SETTING



UPLAND GAME BIRD SEASON SETTING & BIRD DOG TRAINING



The public comment period on the following proposals will begin on December 26, 2023. Comments will be accepted through **January 23, 2024**, with final action at the February commission meeting.

Upland Game Bird Season Setting

- [Coversheet](#) (PDF)
- [Proposals](#) (PDF)

Contact information:

Name:

City/Town:

State/Province:

Email Address:

*** Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting**

Done



Department Upland Game Bird Proposal



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: Feb. 16, 2024

Agenda Item: 2024 and 2025 Upland Game Bird and Turkey Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially by the commission for most game species. The proposed changes to upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird seasons are described in the attached upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird season summary and presented in detail for commission action within the regulation mockup. Sage-grouse harvest regulations are informed by the Sage-Grouse Adaptive Harvest Management Plan. Per that plan, the department will recommend a closure to hunting if the population counts in a harvest management zone (HMZ) are ≥ 45 percent below long-term average for three consecutive years. Counts were below that threshold in 2022 and 2023 in HMZ 3 (southeast MT – see map at end of this document). If they fall below that threshold following spring 2024 lek counts, the department recommends that HMZ 3 should be closed to hunting. The commission is considering all regulations and descriptions of boundaries for the 2024 and 2025 upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird seasons, whether a change is proposed or not. All other regulations and descriptions of boundaries will remain unchanged unless addressed by the commission.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public input was solicited through 34 public meetings during June and July 2023 where concepts for biennial season setting were discussed. Public comment was solicited for a four-week period following the Dec. 14, 2023, commission meeting. Seven hybrid virtual meetings were held (one in each region) between Oct. 30 and Nov. 10, 2023, to answer questions about proposals. Written public comments received during the comment period will be posted online and provided to commissioners at least two weeks prior to the February commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: The department presented concepts for discussion for each species during June and July. Based on public feedback and legal analysis, the department refined the concepts and developed proposals for commission action.

Alternative A: The commission may approve the department's recommendation as presented.

Alternative B: The commission may amend the department's recommendation on any aspect of season structure, quota, or hunting district or on aspects of the regulations that are not proposed for change.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends the commission approve the proposed 2024 and 2025 hunting regulations and district boundaries as presented by the department and as detailed in the attached mockup. The department also requests the commission approve closing HMZ 3 to sage-grouse hunting if the 2024 lek counts for that HMZ are ≥ 45 percent below long-term average. Any aspect unchanged from 2023 season will remain in effect for 2024 and 2025, except where affected by routine calendar rotations.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve: 1) changes identified in the upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulation mockup to include opportunities, season dates, quotas, and quota ranges as presented by the department; 2) closing HMZ 3 to sage-grouse hunting if 2024 lek counts are ≥ 45 percent below long-term average, and 3) all other upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulations contained in the 2023 regulations, except for those affected by regular calendar rotations, unless addressed in

Department Upland Game Bird Proposal



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THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US A

Meeting Date: Feb. 16, 2024

Agenda Item: 2024 and 2025 Upland
District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Pi

Background: Season structures and most game species. The proposal described in the attached upland game bird regulation mockup is for commission action within the regular Grouse Adaptive Harvest Management if the population counts in a harvest year are three consecutive years. Counts were at end of this document). If they find that HMZ 3 should be described in the attached upland game bird regulation mockup, a change is proposed or not. All other items addressed by the commission.

Public Involvement Process and Review: Public comments were received during the comment period from July 2023 where concepts for biennial review week period following the Dec. 14, 2023 (each region) between Oct. 30 and Nov. 15, 2023 received during the comment period prior to the February commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: The department is reviewing public feedback and making recommendations for commission action.

Alternative A: The commission may

Alternative B: The commission may

Agency Recommendation and Ratification: The department is recommending the 2024 and 2025 hunting regulations as presented in the attached mockup. The department is recommending that the 2024 lek counts for turkey and migratory bird hunting if the 2024 lek counts for turkey and migratory bird hunting from 2023 season will remain in effect.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission amend: 1) changes identified in the upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulation mockup to include opportunities, season dates, quotas, and quota ranges as presented by the department as follows (Insert changes here); 2) closing HMZ 3 to sage-grouse hunting if 2024 lek counts are ≥ 45 percent below long-term average, and 3) accept all other upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulations contained in the 2023 regulations, except for those affected by regular calendar rotations, unless addressed in some other proposal to be adopted for the 2024 and 2025 upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird hunting seasons and districts.

some other proposal to be adopted for the 2024 and 2025 upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird hunting seasons and districts.

Alternative Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission amend: 1) changes identified in the upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulation mockup to include opportunities, season dates, quotas, and quota ranges as presented by the department as follows (Insert changes here); 2) closing HMZ 3 to sage-grouse hunting if 2024 lek counts are ≥ 45 percent below long-term average, and 3) accept all other upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulations contained in the 2023 regulations, except for those affected by regular calendar rotations, unless addressed in some other proposal to be adopted for the 2024 and 2025 upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird hunting seasons and districts.

Department Upland Game Bird Proposal



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Meeting Date: Feb. 16, 2024

Agenda Item: 2024 and 2025 Upland Game Bird District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Proposal

Background: Season structures and regulations for most game species. The proposal described in the attached upland game bird proposal for commission action within the region Grouse Adaptive Harvest Management if the population counts in a harvest three consecutive years. Counts were at end of this document). If they find recommends that HMZ 3 should have descriptions of boundaries for the 2024 a change is proposed or not. All other addressed by the commission.

Public Involvement Process and Review: July 2023 where concepts for public hearing week period following the Dec. 14, each region) between Oct. 30 and Nov received during the comment period prior to the February commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: The department July. Based on public feedback and input for commission action.

Alternative A: The commission may structure, quota, or hunting district

Agency Recommendation and Rating: 2024 and 2025 hunting regulations the attached mockup. The department hunting if the 2024 lek counts for 2023 season will remain in effect

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Game Commission to approve the upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulations as presented by the department if 2024 lek counts are ≥45 percent below long-term average, contained in the 2023 regulations, and

some other proposal to be adopted in 2024 seasons and districts.

Alternative Motion: I move the Fish and Game Commission to approve the upland game bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulations as presented by the department if 2024 lek counts are ≥45 percent below long-term average, contained in the 2023 regulations, and

Season dates

Season 2024	Date conveyed
Sage-grouse	9/1 – 9/30
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (e)
Pheasant	10/12 – 1/1
Youth Pheasant/ Youth Waterfowl	9/21 – 9/22
Turkey spring	4/15 – 5/31
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

Season 2025	Date conveyed
Sage-grouse	9/1 – 9/30
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (e)
Pheasant	10/11 – 1/1
Youth Pheasant/ Youth Waterfowl	9/27 – 9/28
Turkey spring	4/15 – 5/31
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

Summary of proposed changes for turkey

Increase the number of 199-01 beard

Specific changes

Falconry license requirements

Page 8 of the 2023 Upland Game

Reason for change: Eliminate confusing

Falconry hours: One-half hour before sunrise/sunset tables are available ~~until March 31, 2024. Falconers may apply for a Game Bird License no later than 15 days before the start of the season with falconry.~~

Hunting district boundary changes

Add Descriptions of Regions to Hunting

Not currently in descriptions.

Reason for change: Region boundary descriptions are lacking in some documents

Region 1 – Those portions of Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell and Sanders counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Continental Divide intersects with the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, then westerly and northerly along the Glacier National Park boundary to the Canadian line, then westerly along said line to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly along said border to its junction with the Sanders-Mineral County line, then easterly along said county line to Trail 404 near Combest Peak, then east on Trail 404 to Miller Creek Loop Road, then along Miller Creek and Forest Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, then southerly on Trail 1714 to Montana Route 135, then easterly along said route to Trail 242, then southerly along said trail to Clark Fork-Ninemile Divide, then easterly along said divide and Sanders County line to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said Reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide at Wolverine Peak, then south, east and north along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, the point of beginning.

Region 2 – Those portions of Deer Lodge, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli and Silver Bow Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lookout Pass on the Montana-Idaho border, then in an easterly direction along the Mineral County-Sanders County line to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Combest Peak, then east on said trail to Miller Creek Loop Forest Service Road, then east along said road to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 415, then south and east on said trail to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then south on said trail to the Clark Fork River at the Cascade Campground, then south along Forest Service Trail 242 to the Ninemile-Seigel Creek Divide, then easterly along said divide to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide, then southerly, easterly and northerly along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then west and north along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then westerly and northerly along said border to Lookout Pass, the point of beginning.

Region 3 – Those portions of Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Silver Bow and Sweet Grass Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Mt. Tiny on the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly and easterly along said border to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly and easterly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River Divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to the Meagher-Gallatin County line, then west along said line to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then northwesterly along said line to the Broadwater-Lewis and Clark-Meagher County line, then northwesterly along the Lewis and Clark – Meagher County line until its intersection with USFS Rd #4143, then westerly along said road to the Beaver Creek Road (USFS Road #138), then northwesterly along said road to the National Forest-private land boundary in the southwest quarter of section 23, then west, north and west along the National Forest and Gates of the Mountain Wilderness boundary to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Humps cabin, then southwesterly along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch Divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Halter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate-15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287.

Department Upland Game Bird Proposal



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some other proposal to be adopted in seasons and districts.

Alternative Motion: I move the Fish bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulations as presented by the department if 2024 lek counts are ≥45 percent and migratory bird regulations continue rotations, unless addressed in some turkey, and migratory bird hunting;

Meeting Date: Feb. 16, 2024

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Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

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Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (e)
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Add Descriptions of Regions to Hunting

Not currently in descriptions.

Reason for change: Region boundary descriptions are lacking in some documents

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Region 2 – Those portions of De Bow Counties lying within the Ft border, then in an easterly direction near Combest Peak, then east of its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then south of Forest Service Trail 242 to the Ni Reservation, then southeasterly Divide, then easterly and northerly and northerly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in Butte, then west and north along highway to State Route 274 (M southwesterly along said divide Lookout Pass, the point of beginning.

Region 3 – Those portions of Beaver Meagher, Park, Silver Bow and at Mt. Tiny on the Continental Divide southerly and easterly along said along said boundary to the S Columbine Pass and the Boulder Elephant Head Mountain, then bank of said river to the mouth of Fork of Duck Creek then northw (Crazy Mountain Divide), then it then westerly along said divide to Creek, then westerly down the said line to the Broadwater-Me and Clark-Meagher County line, intersection with USFS Rd #4143 northwesterly along said road to 23, then west, north and west at posted Beartooth WMA boundary Creek Divide, then southwesterly Willow Creek divide, then south Meriwether Canyon on the east the Missouri River to Interstate.

then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then westerly and northerly along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, then northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Mt. Tiny, the point of beginning. Trail Creek Beaver Management Area – Joseph Creek from Chief Joseph Pass to the confluence with Trail Creek and Trail Creek downstream of this confluence to the National Forest boundary. Upper Madison Beaver Management Area – Those portions of Gallatin and Madison counties that include all of the Madison River drainage upstream from the Earthquake Lake Dam described as follows: Beginning at the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam on the Madison River, then northerly to US Highway 287, then northeasterly to the intersection of Rock Creek, then up said creek to the Beaverhead-Gallatin National Forest boundary, then northerly on said boundary to the Madison River-Gallatin River divide, then easterly along said divide to the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park, then south along said boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line northerly and westerly to its intersection with Highway 87, then along highway 287 to the Madison River, easterly along said river to the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam, the point of beginning.

Region 4 – Those portions of Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Glacier, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Meagher, Petroleum, Pondera, Teton and Toole counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the eastern boundary of Glacier National Park intersects the United States-Canada Boundary, then east along said boundary to the Liberty-Hill County line, then south on said line to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then easterly and southerly along the south edge of said reservoir to the Musselshell River, then southerly along the west bank of said river to State Route 200, then west along said route to Winnett, then southwesterly on the Winnett to Roundup Road (FAS 244) to its junction with US Highway 87, then north on said highway approximately 4 miles to Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the South Fork of Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the Red Hill Road, then south along said road to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then westerly along said divide to the head of Meadow Creek, then westerly down said creek to US Highway 191, then south on said highway to the Wheatland-Judith Basin county line, then westerly on said line and subsequently continuing westerly along the Meagher-Judith Basin County line to its junction with the Spring Creek-Whitetail Creek Road (Forest Service Road #274), then south on this road to US Highway 12, then southeasterly on said highway to its junction with Route 294, then southwesterly on said route to its junction with US Highway 89, then southerly along said highway to Sixteen-Mile Creek (near Ringling), then southwesterly along north bank of said creek to the Meagher-Gallatin County line, then west along said line to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then northwesterly along said line to the Broadwater-Lewis and Clark – Meagher County line, then northwesterly along the Lewis and Clark – Meagher County line until its intersection with USFS Rd #4143, then westerly along said road to the Beaver Creek Road (USFS Road #138), then northwesterly along said road to the National Forest/private land boundary in the southwest quarter of section 23, then west, north and west along the National Forest and Gates of the Mountain Wilderness boundary to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Hump Cabin, then southwesterly along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek-Parcupine Creek divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate 15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287, then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary, then easterly and northerly along said boundary to the United States-Canada boundary, the point of beginning.

Region 5 – Those portions of Big Horn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland and Yellowstone counties lying within the following described boundaries: Beginning at Wolverine Peak where the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide meets with the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River Divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down the south bank of said river to the mouth of

Department Upland Game Bird Proposal



MONTANA
WILDLIFE PARKS

some other proposal to be adopted in seasons and districts.

Alternative Motion: I move the Fish bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulations as presented by the department if 2024 lek counts are ≥45 percent and migratory bird regulations continue rotations, unless addressed in some turkey, and migratory bird hunting;

THE OUTSIDE IS IN US A

Meeting Date: Feb. 16, 2024

Agenda Item: 2024 and 2025 Upland District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Proposal

Background: Season structures and most game species. The proposal described in the attached upland game for commission action within the re Grouse Adaptive Harvest Management if the population counts in a harvest three consecutive years. Counts were at end of this document). If they find recommends that HMZ 3 should descriptions of boundaries for the 2024 a change is proposed or not. All other addressed by the commission.

Public Involvement Process and Re July 2023 where concepts for biennial week period following the Dec. 14, each region) between Oct. 30 and November received during the comment period prior to the February commission meeting

Alternatives and Analysis: The department July. Based on public feedback and I for commission action.

Alternative A: The commission may structure, quota, or hunting district

Agency Recommendation and Rating 2024 and 2025 hunting regulations the attached mockup. The department hunting if the 2024 lek counts for 2023 season will remain in effect

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish bird, turkey, and migratory bird regulations as presented by the department percent below long-term average, contained in the 2023 regulations, I

Season dates

Season 2024	Date conveyed
Sage-grouse	9/1 – 9/30
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (e)
Pheasant	10/12 – 1/1
Youth Pheasant/ Youth Waterfowl	9/21 – 9/22
Turkey spring	4/15 – 5/31
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

Season 2025	Date conveyed
Sage-grouse	9/1 – 9/30
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (e)
Pheasant	10/11 – 1/1
Youth Pheasant/ Youth Waterfowl	9/27 – 9/28
Turkey spring	4/15 – 5/31
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

Summary of proposed changes for turkey

Increase the number of 199-01 beard

Specific changes

Falconry license requirements

Page 8 of the 2023 Upland Game

Reason for change: Eliminate confusing

Falconry hours: One-half hour before sunrise/sunset tables are available until March 31, 2024. Falconers have Game Bird License no later than 1 with falconry.

Hunting district boundary changes

Add Descriptions of Regions to Hunting

Not currently in descriptions.

Reason for change: Region boundary descriptions are lacking in some documents

Region 1 – Those portions of Flathead, Glacier, and Lake counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at the Glacier National Park boundary to the Canadian along said border to its junction at Trail 404 near Combest Peak, the Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, the to Trail 242, then southerly along Sanders County line to the Flathead Reservation boundary to the S Blackfoot-Flathead Divide at W Divide at Triple Divide Mountain Pass, the point of beginning.

Region 2 – Those portions of DeWalt, Petroleum, and Pondera counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Boundary, then east along said river, then southerly along the of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then southerly to the intersection of Rock Creek, the northerly on said boundary to western boundary of Yellowstone line northerly and westerly to its easterly along said river to the

Region 3 – Those portions of Beaverhead, Park, Silver Bow and at Mt. Tidy on the Continental Divide southerly and easterly along said along said boundary to the S Columbine Pass and the Boulder Elephant Head Mountain, then bank of said river to the mouth of Fork of Duck Creek then northwesterly along said divide to the Creek, then westerly down the said line to the Broadwater-Meagher and Clark-Meagher County line, intersection with USFS Rd #4143 northwesterly along said road to 23, then west, north and west at posted Beartooth WMA boundary Creek Divide, then southwesterly Willow Creek divide, then south Meriwether Canyon on the east the Missouri River to Interstate

then south on said highway to its to the Continental Divide, then said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, the southerly along said route to the of beginning. Trail Creek Beaver Trail Creek and Trail Creek do Beaver Management Area – The River drainage upstream from Earthquake Lake Dam on the intersection of Rock Creek, the northerly on said boundary to western boundary of Yellowstone line northerly and westerly to its easterly along said river to the

Region 4 – Those portions of Cascade, Petroleum, Pondera, and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Boundary, then east along said river, then southerly along the of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then southerly to the intersection of Rock Creek, the northerly on said boundary to western boundary of Yellowstone line northerly and westerly to its easterly along said river to the

Region 5 – Those portions of Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Garfield, Hill, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south along said creek to State Route 200, then east and northeast along said route to the North Dakota border, then north along said border to the Canadian border, then west along said border to State Route 233, the point of beginning. Portion of Region 6 for Swift Fox Season – Those portions of Blaine, Hill, Phillips, and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to US Highway 2, then east along said Highway to Nashua, then northerly along Porcupine Creek to the West Fork of Porcupine Creek, then northerly along said creek until the north boundary of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, then easterly along said boundary until MT Highway 24, then northerly along said Highway to the Canadian border, then westerly along said border to the port of Willow Creek, the point of beginning.

Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River Divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then northwesterly along the south bank of said creek to US Highway 89, then north on said highway to its junction with Route 294, then northeasterly on said route to its junction with US Highway 12, then northwesterly on said highway to its junction with the Spring Creek-Whitetail Creek Road (Forest Service Road #274), then north on said road to the Meagher-Judith Basin county line, then easterly along said line and subsequently continuing easterly along the Wheatland-Judith Basin county line to its junction with US Highway 191, then northerly on said highway to its junction with Meadow Creek near Garniel, then northeasterly along said creek to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then easterly along said divide to its intersection with the Red Hill Road, then north along said road to South Fork Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to US Highway 87, then southerly along said highway to Route 244, then northerly along said route to Winnett, then east along US Highway 200 to the Musselshell River, then south along the east bank of said river to the Melstone-Custer Road bridge, then south along the Melstone-Custer Road to Interstate 94 near Custer, then east along said interstate to State Route 47, then south along said route to Interstate 90 at Hardin, then south along said interstate to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then westerly along said line to the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then northerly and westerly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River divide at Wolverine Peak, the point of beginning. Special Regulations in Regions 1, 2 and portions of 3, 4 & 5 – Those portions of Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 within the following described boundary: From the Montana-Idaho state line at the Canada border then east along said border to the Glacier National Park boundary and south and east along said boundary to Marias Pass then easterly along US Highway 2 to its intersection with US Highway 89 in Browning and then southeasterly along said highway to its intersection with US Highway 287 at Choteau and then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Interstate 90 near Three Forks and then easterly along said interstate to its intersection with State Route 78 at Columbus and then southerly along said route to its intersection with US Highway 212 at Red Lodge and then southerly along said route to the Montana-Wyoming state line and then along said state line to the Yellowstone National Park boundary and then west and south along that boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line and then westerly and northerly along said state line to the US-Canada border, the point of beginning.

Region 6 – Those portions of Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Garfield, Hill, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south along said creek to State Route 200, then east and northeast along said route to the North Dakota border, then north along said border to the Canadian border, then west along said border to State Route 233, the point of beginning. Portion of Region 6 for Swift Fox Season – Those portions of Blaine, Hill, Phillips, and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to US Highway 2, then east along said Highway to Nashua, then northerly along Porcupine Creek to the West Fork of Porcupine Creek, then northerly along said creek until the north boundary of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, then easterly along said boundary until MT Highway 24, then northerly along said Highway to the Canadian border, then westerly along said border to the port of Willow Creek, the point of beginning.

Region 7 – Those portions of Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Garfield, Hill, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 47 and Interstate 94, then west along said interstate to the intersection with the Melstone-Custer Road near Custer, then north along said road to Melstone, then east along US Highway 12 to the Musselshell River bridge, then north along the east bank of the Musselshell River to the Missouri River, then east and northeast down said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south up said creek to Little Dry Creek, then east along

Department Upland Game Bird Proposal



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some other proposal to be adopted in seasons and districts.

Alternative Motion: I move the Fish bird, turkey, and migratory bird ranges as presented by the department if 2024 lek counts are ≥45 percent and migratory bird regulations contain rotations, unless addressed in some turkey, and migratory bird hunting;

Meeting Date: Feb. 16, 2024

Agenda Item: 2024 and 2025 Upland District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Proposal

Background: Season structures and most game species. The proposal described in the attached upland game for commission action within the re Grouse Adaptive Harvest Management if the population counts in a harvest three consecutive years. Counts were at end of this document). If they find recommends that HMZ 3 should descriptions of boundaries for the 2024 a change is proposed or not. All other addressed by the commission.

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Alternative A: The commission may structure, quota, or hunting district

Agency Recommendation and Ratified 2024 and 2025 hunting regulations the attached mockup. The department hunting if the 2024 lek counts for 2023 season will remain in effect

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish bird, turkey, and migratory bird ranges as presented by the department percent below long-term average, contained in the 2023 regulations, I

Season dates

Season 2024	Date conveyed
Sage-grouse	9/1 – 9/30
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (e)
Pheasant	10/12 – 1/1
Youth Pheasant/ Youth Waterfowl	9/21 – 9/22
Turkey spring	4/15 – 5/31
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

Season 2025	Date conveyed
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Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (e)
Pheasant	10/11 – 1/1
Youth Pheasant/ Youth Waterfowl	9/27 – 9/28
Turkey spring	4/15 – 5/31
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Summary of proposed changes for turkey

Increase the number of 199-01 beard

Specific changes

Falconry license requirements

Page 8 of the 2023 Upland Game

Reason for change: Eliminate confusing

Falconry hours: One-half hour before sunrise/sunset tables are available until March 31, 2024. Falconers have Game Bird License no later than 1 with falconry.

Hunting district boundary changes

Add Descriptions of Regions to Hunting

Not currently in descriptions.

Reason for change: Region boundary descriptions are lacking in some documents

Region 1 – Those portions of Flathead, Glacier, and Lake counties within the following descriptions with the Glacier National Park boundary to the Canadian along said border to its junction at Trail 404 near Combest Peak, the Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, the to Trail 242, then southerly along Sanders County line to the Flathead Reservation boundary to the S Blackfoot-Flathead Divide at Willow Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, Pass, the point of beginning.

Region 2 – Those portions of DeWalt, Lake, and Lake counties lying within the Flathead border, then in an easterly direction near Combest Peak, then east to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then south to Forest Service Trail 242 to the Niwot Reservation, then southeasterly Divide, then easterly and northerly and northerly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in Butte, then west and north along highway to State Route 274 (M southwesterly along said divide Lookout Pass, the point of beginning.

Region 3 – Those portions of Beaverhead, Park, Silver Bow and at Mt. Tidy on the Continental Divide southerly and easterly along said along said boundary to the S Columbine Pass and the Boulder Elephant Head Mountain, then bank of said river to the mouth of Fork of Duck Creek then northwesterly (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly then westerly along said divide to Creek, then westerly down the said line to the Broadwater-Meagher and Clark-Meagher County line, intersection with USFS Rd #4143 northwesterly along said road to 23, then west, north and west at posted Beartooth WMA boundary to Willow Creek divide, then south Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River to Interstate

then south on said highway to Interstate 90, then southwesterly to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly to its junction with State Route 1, the southerly along said route to the of beginning. Trail Creek Beaver Trail Creek and Trail Creek do Beaver Management Area – The River drainage upstream from Earthquake Lake Dam on the intersection of Rock Creek, the northerly on said boundary to western boundary of Yellowstone line northerly and westerly to its easterly along said river to the

Region 4 – Those portions of Cascade, Petroleum, Pondera Beginning at a point where the Boundary, then east along said River, then southerly along the of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then southerly to Musselshell River, then southerly to Winnett, then southwesterly then north on said highway opposite Fork of Flat Willow Creek, then Snowy Mountain Divide, then westerly creek to US Highway 191, then on said line and subsequently to the Spring Creek-Whitetail Creek then southeasterly on said highway with US Highway 89, then south along north bank of said creek to Meagher county line, then northerly line, then northwesterly along #4143, then westerly along said road to the National Forest/private west along the National Forest boundary fence near Hump Cal divide, then southwesterly along Creek divide, then southwesterly Canyon on the east side of the River to Interstate 15, then south said highway to the bridge on the Continental Divide, then northerly along said boundary to

Region 5 – Those portions of Big Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure boundaries: Beginning at Willow Yellowstone National Park boundary Yellowstone National Park boundary Willow Yellowstone River Divide, north down Mission Creek to the

Duck Creek, then northwesterly northwesterly along the west then northerly and westerly divide to the Smith-Shields down the south bank of said to US Highway 89, then northerly its junction with US Highway Whitetail Creek Road (Forest line, then easterly along said line to its junction with US Highway Garniel, then northeasterly intersection with the Red Hill said creek to Flatwillow Creek highway to Route 244, the Musselshell River, then south along the Melstone-Custer line then south along said route to state line, then westerly along along said boundary to the S Regulations in Regions 1, 2 a described boundary: From the Glacier National Park boundary Highway 2 to its intersection intersection with US Highway Interstate 90 near Three Forks Columbus and then southerly southerly along said route to National Park boundary and westerly and northerly along

Region 6 – Those portions of Sheridan and Valley counties Route 233 joins the Canadian county line, then south along Missouri River, then easterly the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir and northeast along said road then west along said border – Those portions of Blaine, Beginning at a point where along said border to the Hill Highway to Nashua, then northerly along said creek until the north until MT Highway 24, then north to the port of Willow Creek.

Region 7 – Those portions of River, Prairie, Richland, Rose boundary: Beginning at the intersection with the Melstone US Highway 12 to the Musselshell River-Yellowstone River Divide, then east along east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir

State Route 200 to the Montana-North Dakota state line, then south to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then west along said state line to Interstate 90, then north along said interstate to State Route 47, then north along said state route to Interstate 94, the point of beginning.

Remove descriptions of valid areas following Regional License description within turkey section of Upland Game Bird Hunting Regulations

Page 7 in the 2023 Upland Game Bird Hunting Regulations.

Reason for change: Change hunting district boundaries from definitions that are described by county and reference Regions to consistently define open areas.

Region 5 Turkey License Valid in Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Yellowstone, and Big Horn counties.

Region 7 Turkey License Valid in that portion of Garfield County south and west of Fort Peck Reservoir, west of Big Dry Creek and south of HWY 200, Rosebud County, Treasure County, Prairie County, Custer County, Powder River County, that portion of Richland County south of HWY 200, that portion of Dawson County south of HWY 200, that portion of McCone County south of HWY 200, Wibaux County, Fallon County, and Carter County.

Sage-grouse Habitat Management Zones

Sage Grouse Management Zones



Department Upland Game Bird Proposal

Hunting Season Information				
Turkey Wild turkey may be taken with: a shotgun not larger than a 10 gauge; a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow; a rifle, handgun or crossbow may be used during the fall season except in areas with weapons restrictions limiting their use; an air rifle: fall turkey may be taken with an .177 caliber air rifle shooting a performance ballistic alloy pellet at least 1250 feet per second as specified by the manufacturer or with an .22 caliber air rifle shooting a performance ballistic alloy pellet at least 950 feet per second as specified by the manufacturer. (MCA 87-6-401, CR) All other means of taking are prohibited.				
License	Licenses Per Hunter	Season Dates	Opportunity	Opportunity specific details
General Turkey License Over-the-Counter valid in General Hunting Areas (see map).				
Turkey License	1	Apr. 15 - May 31	Male Wild Turkey, Shotgun/Archery only.	
		Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Either-sex Wild Turkey.	Not valid in Region 4.
Regional Turkey Licenses Over-the-Counter				
Region 1 Turkey License NOTE: Turkeys in Region 1 are mostly on private land. Hunters must get permission.				
199-00	1	Apr. 15 - May 31	Male Wild Turkey, Shotgun/Archery only.	Valid in Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, and Lake counties and those portions of Sanders and Missoula counties within Region 1. Not valid on the Flathead Indian Reservation.
		Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Either-sex Wild Turkey.	
199-01	Up to 4	Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Female or beardless Wild Turkey.	
Region 2 Turkey License NOTE: Rifles are not allowed in Deer & Elk HD 260.				
299-00	1	Apr. 15 - May 31	Male Wild Turkey, Shotgun/Archery only.	Valid in Missoula and Ravalli counties
		Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Either-sex Wild Turkey.	Valid in Missoula and Ravalli counties
299-01	Up to 4	Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Female or beardless Wild Turkey.	Valid in Missoula and Ravalli counties
299-02	1	Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Female or beardless Wild Turkey.	Valid in Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral counties.
Region 5 Turkey License Valid in Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Yellowstone, and Big Horn counties:				
599-00	1	Apr. 15 - May 31	Male Wild Turkey, Shotgun/Archery only.	
Region 7 Turkey License Valid in that portion of Garfield County south and west of Fort Peck Reservoir, west of Big Dry Creek and south of HWY 200; Rosebud County; Treasure County; Prairie County; Custer County; Powder River County; that portion of Richland County south of HWY 200; that portion of Dawson County south of HWY 200; that portion of McCone County south of HWY 200; Wibaux County; Fallon County; and Carter County.				
799-00	1	Apr. 15 - May 31	Male Wild Turkey, Shotgun/Archery only.	
		Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Either-sex Wild Turkey.	

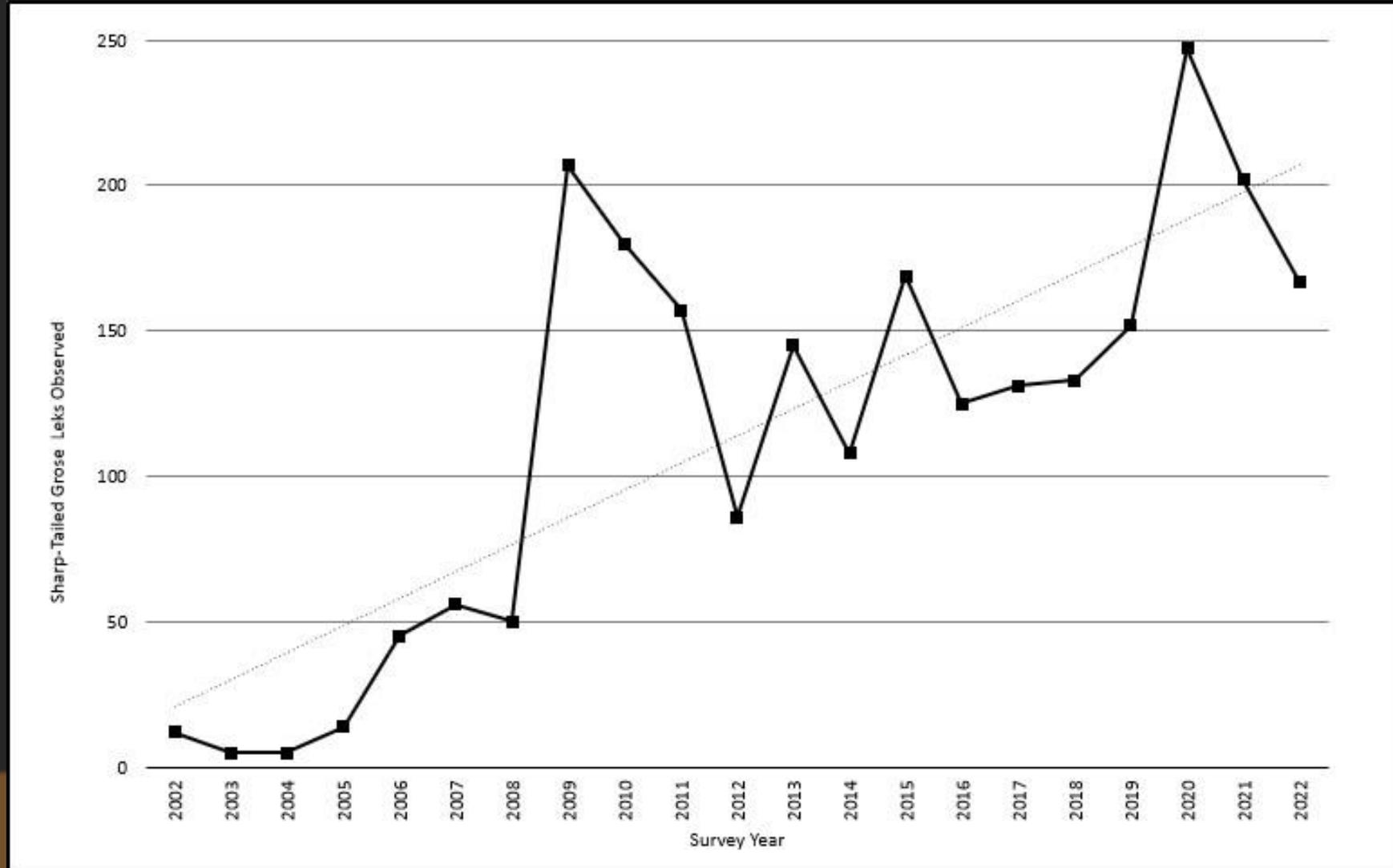
Hunting Season Information		
Season Dates	Bag Limit	Additional Information
Mountain Grouse Blue, ruffed, and Franklin's grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a 10 gauge; a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow; a crossbow; a firearm; or air rifle: mountain grouse may be taken with an .177 caliber air rifle shooting a performance ballistic alloy pellet at least 1250 feet per second as specified by the manufacturer or with an .22 caliber air rifle shooting a performance ballistic alloy pellet at least 950 feet per second as specified by the manufacturer. All other means of taking are prohibited.		
Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Bag Limit: 3 in aggregate daily. Possession limit is four times the daily bag limit.	
Partridge Hungarian and chukar partridge may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a 10 gauge; a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.		
Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Bag Limit: 8 in aggregate daily. Possession limit is four times the daily bag limit.	Chukar partridge occur primarily in Carbon County.
Sep. 01 - Jan. 10	Bag Limit: 8 in aggregate daily. Possession limit is four times the daily bag limit.	Portion of Carbon County within the following boundary: Beginning at the junction of Route 72 and the Wyoming-Montana state line, then northerly along said route to Bridger, then northerly along Hwy. 310 to Edgar, then east on the Edgar-Pryor Road to the Crow Indian Reservation boundary, then southerly and easterly along said boundary to the west shore of Big Horn Lake, then southerly along said shore to the Wyoming-Montana state line, then west along said state line to its junction with Route 72, the point of beginning.
Ptarmigan		
Closed	Closed	Closed
Ring-necked Pheasant Pheasants may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a 10 gauge; a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.		
Sep. 21 - Sep. 22 Youth Only	Bag Limit: 3 cock pheasants daily. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.	Legally licensed youth ages 15 and under when accompanied by a nonhunting adult at least 18 years of age. Mentors for Apprentice Hunters must be at least 21 years of age.
Oct. 12 - Jan. 01	Bag Limit: 3 cock pheasants daily. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.	
Sage Grouse Sage grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a 10 gauge; a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.		
Sep. 01 - Sep. 30	Bag Limit: 2 daily. Possession limit is two times the daily bag limit.	Closed West of the Continental Divide.
Sharp-tailed Grouse Sharp-tailed grouse may be taken with a shotgun not larger than a 10 gauge; a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow. All other means of taking are prohibited.		
Sep. 01 - Jan. 01	Bag Limit: 4 daily. Possession limit is four times the daily bag limit.	Closed West of the Continental Divide.
Falconry All areas open to hunting of upland game birds and/or migratory game birds by firearms shall be open to either-sex hunting of that species by falconry.		
Sep. 01 - Mar. 31	Bag Limit: 2 daily in aggregate and 6 in possession. Bag and possession limits are not in addition to general limits.	Falconry Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Year round sunrise/sunset tables are available on the FWP website. A 2023 Upland Game Bird License is valid for falconry until March 31, 2024. Falconers hunting in the month of March 2024 must have purchased their 2023 Upland Game Bird License no later than Feb. 29, 2024. A current valid Upland Game Bird License is required to hunt with falconry.



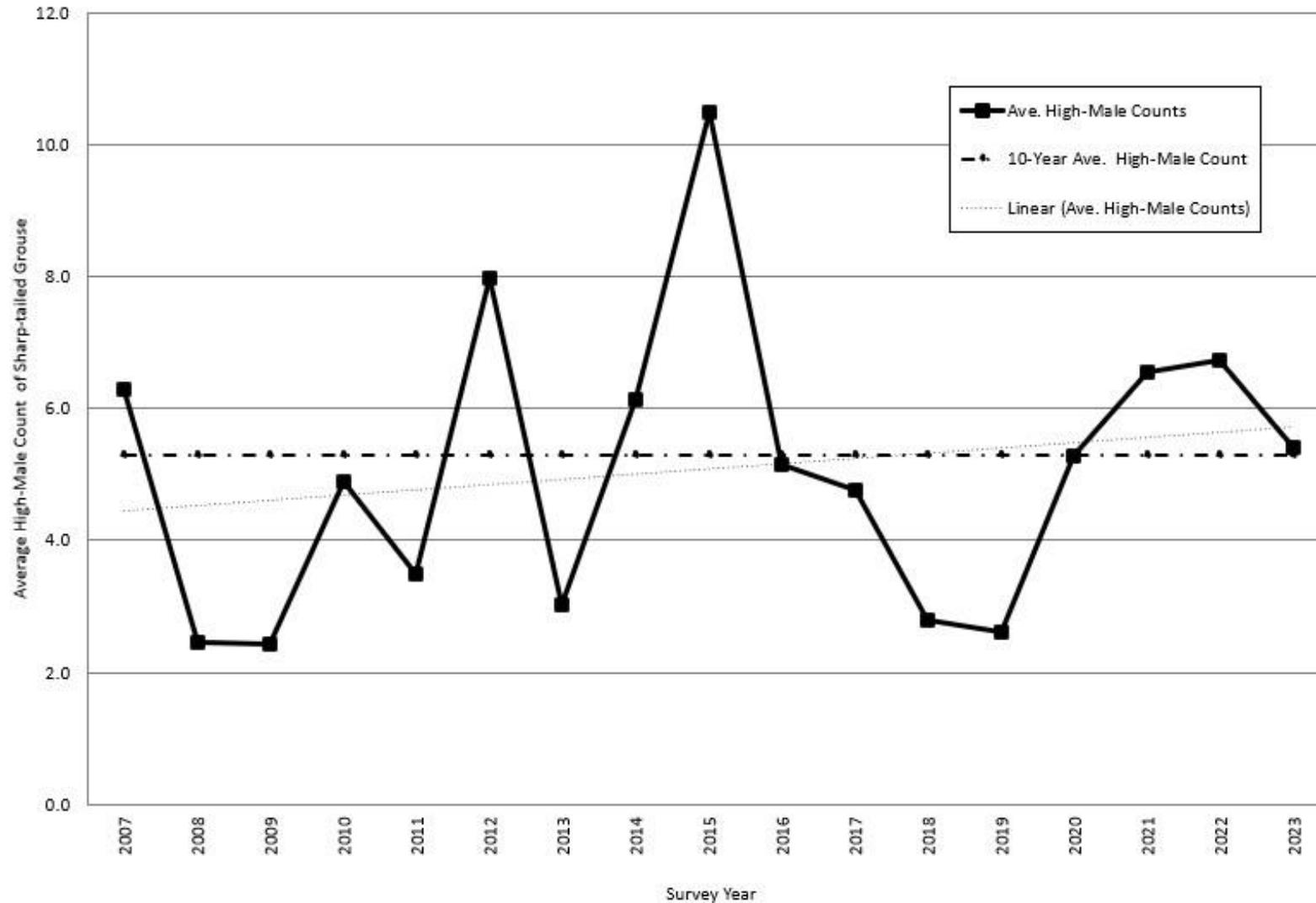
Upland Game Bird Surveys



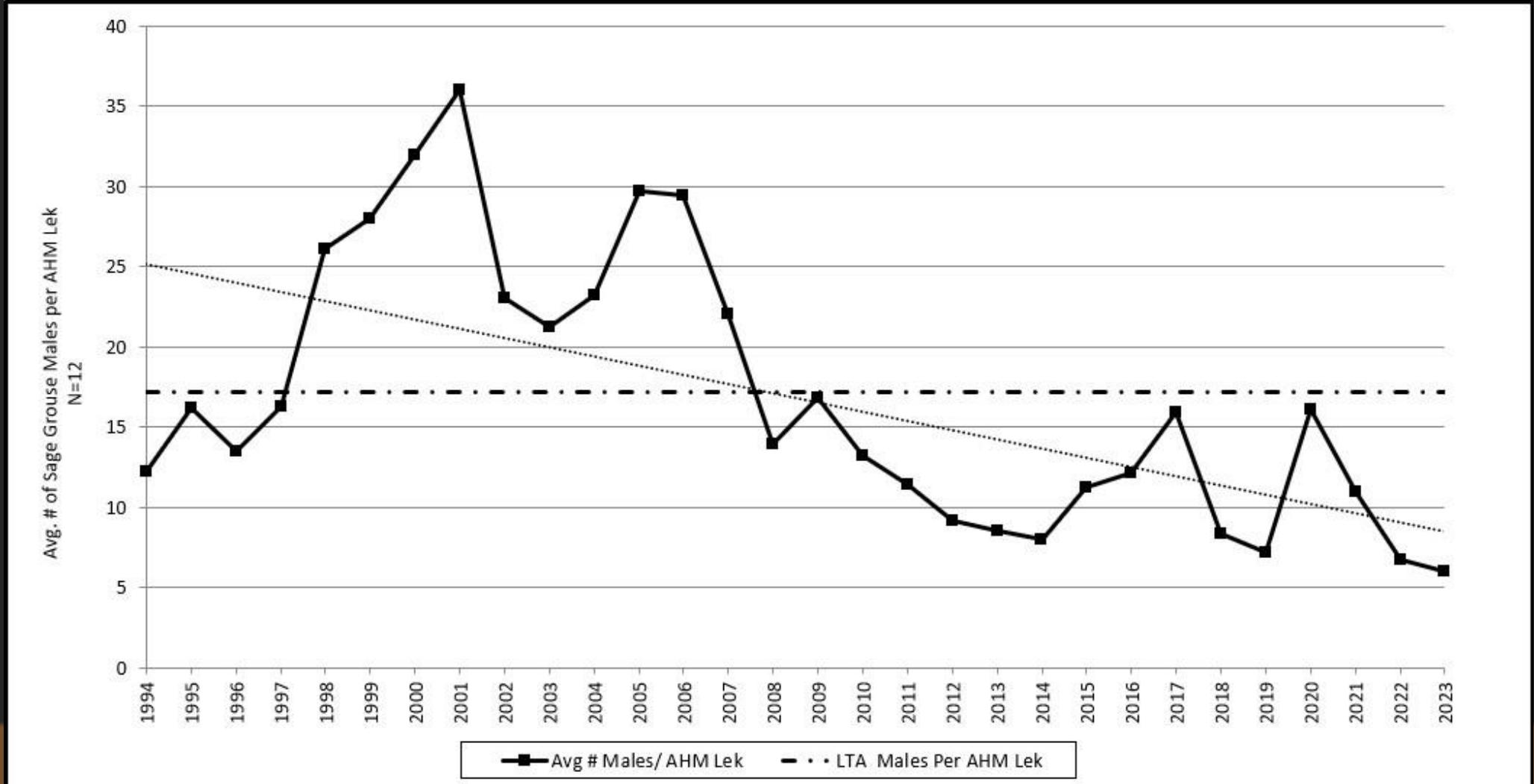
Upland Game Bird Surveys Sharp-tailed Grouse



Upland Game Bird Surveys Sharp-tailed Grouse



Upland Game Bird Surveys Sage Grouse



Upland Game Bird Surveys

Sage Grouse

MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR SAGE GROUSE IN MONTANA – FINAL



Image by Bob Martinka

Prepared by:
Montana Sage Grouse Work Group

Rev. 2-1-2005



Sage grouse exhibit relatively low productivity and high survival when compared with other upland birds in Montana, which lends a degree of stability to the population. Nevertheless, sage grouse have significantly declined or have been extirpated in some areas of the state. Although loss or degradation of habitat, coupled with shifts in weather patterns and changes in predator composition and abundance, is largely responsible for local extirpation and population declines, harvest may be additive to natural mortality in some situations. In such cases, harvest could contribute to local declines or slow recovery of sage grouse populations. Developing an adaptive harvest management strategy (see Adaptive Harvest Strategy in the Appendix), based on monitoring of population trends, i.e., lek surveys, allows for more liberal seasons where populations are documented to be stable or increasing. If habitat becomes restricted and population trends decline, or the status is unknown because of a lack of monitoring, seasons should be conservative or suspended. Although sage grouse population status and trends vary across Montana, recent harvest regulations are uniform across the state. More regional flexibility may benefit isolated populations.

How can we maintain sage grouse hunting without impacting the viability of sage grouse populations and the public's sage grouse hunting opportunity?

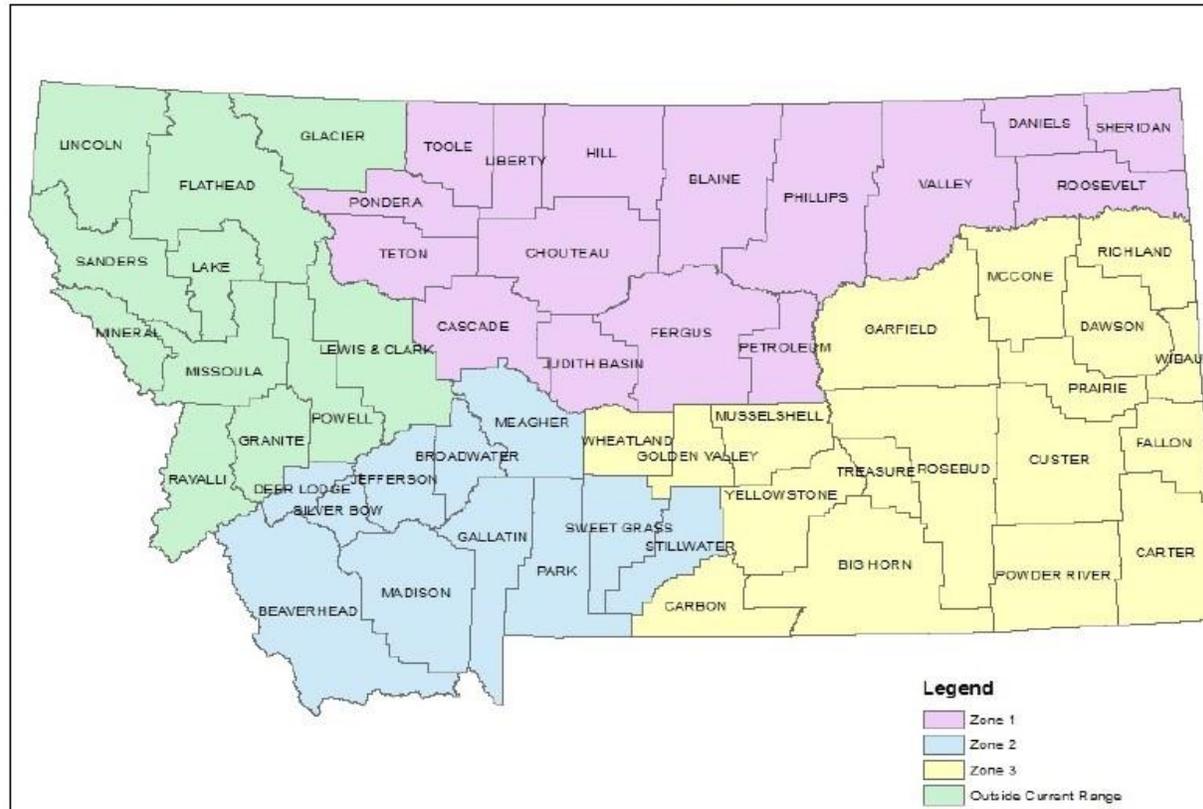
Goal	Issue	Conservation Actions
Manage for harvests that respond to changes in sage grouse populations and maintain or increase sage grouse populations.	There is a single harvest structure for the entire state, but regionally sage grouse may have different population characteristics and status.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Divide sage grouse habitat into ecoregions based on clearly defined differences in ecological and/or population characteristics, which would allow for different season structures. 2) Develop an adaptive harvest management strategy (see Adaptive Harvest Strategy in the Appendix). Clearly define "triggers" for each season structure based on population trend. If a threatening decline became apparent in one or more ecotype segments (Section IV, Page 43-44), recommend against opening a sage grouse season in the appropriate segment(s). A threatening decline is defined as 3 or more consecutive years with average lek survey levels at 45% or more below the long-term average, determined using leks with 10 or more years of consecutive data. 3) Establish sage grouse seasons on an annual basis using the current year's lek data and other appropriate survey data. This would include the development of a statistically reliable trend monitoring protocol for inventorying lek attendance of male sage grouse.

Upland Game Bird Surveys

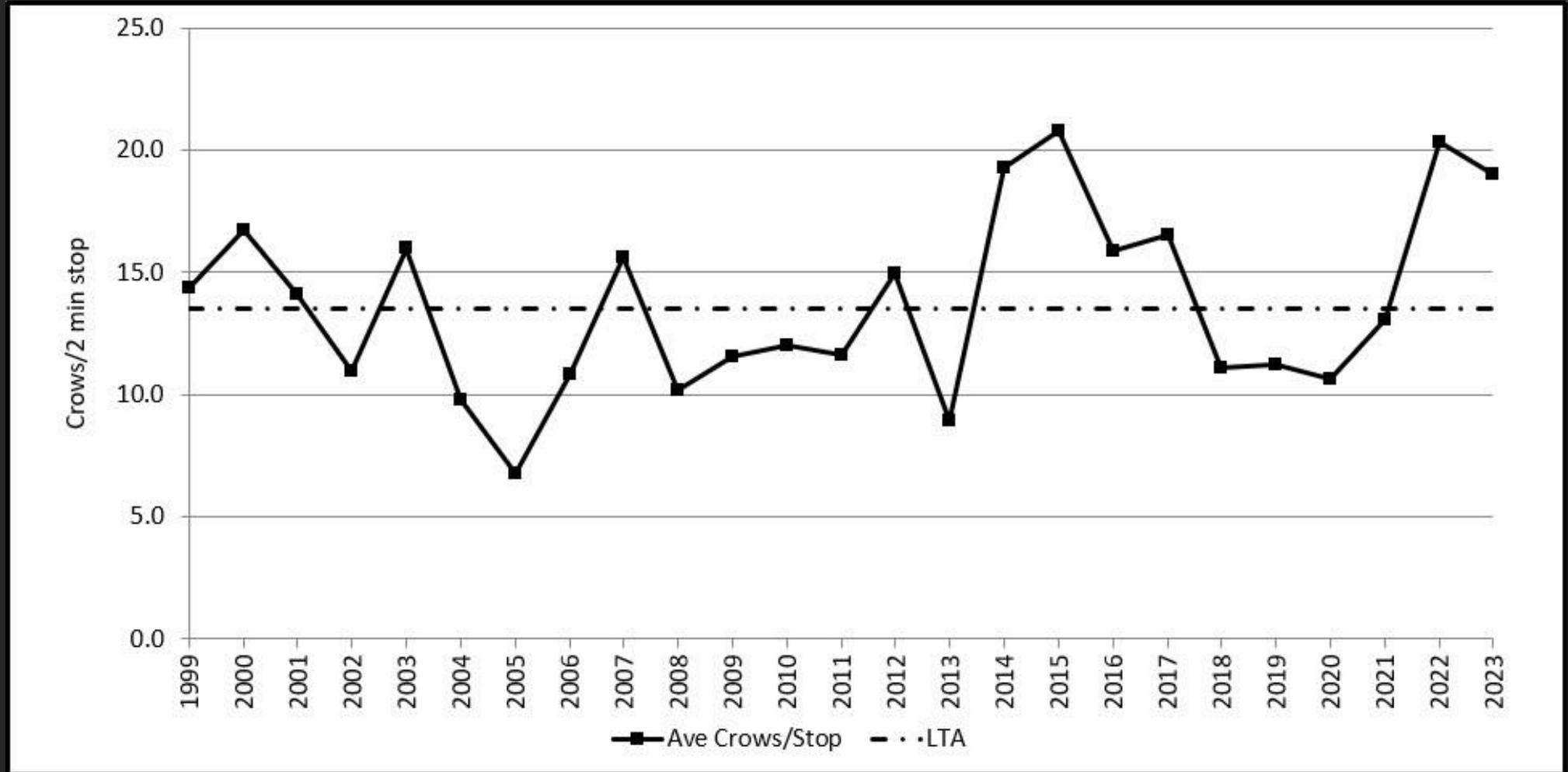
Sage Grouse

Sage-grouse Habitat Management Zones

Sage Grouse Management Zones



Upland Game Bird Surveys Pheasant



Upland Game Bird Surveys Hunter Effort Information



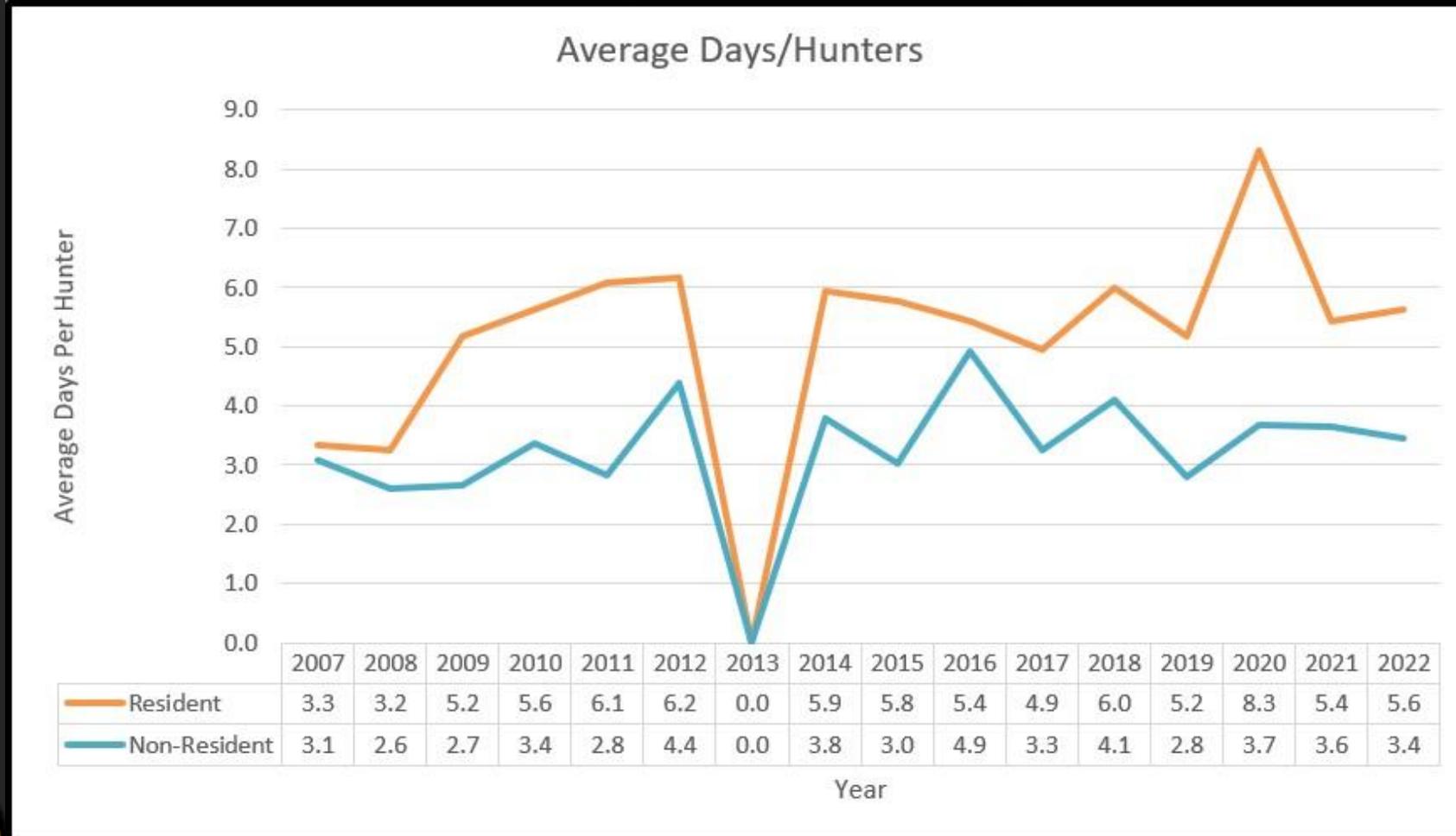
Upland Game Bird Surveys

Hunter Effort – Total Hunter Days



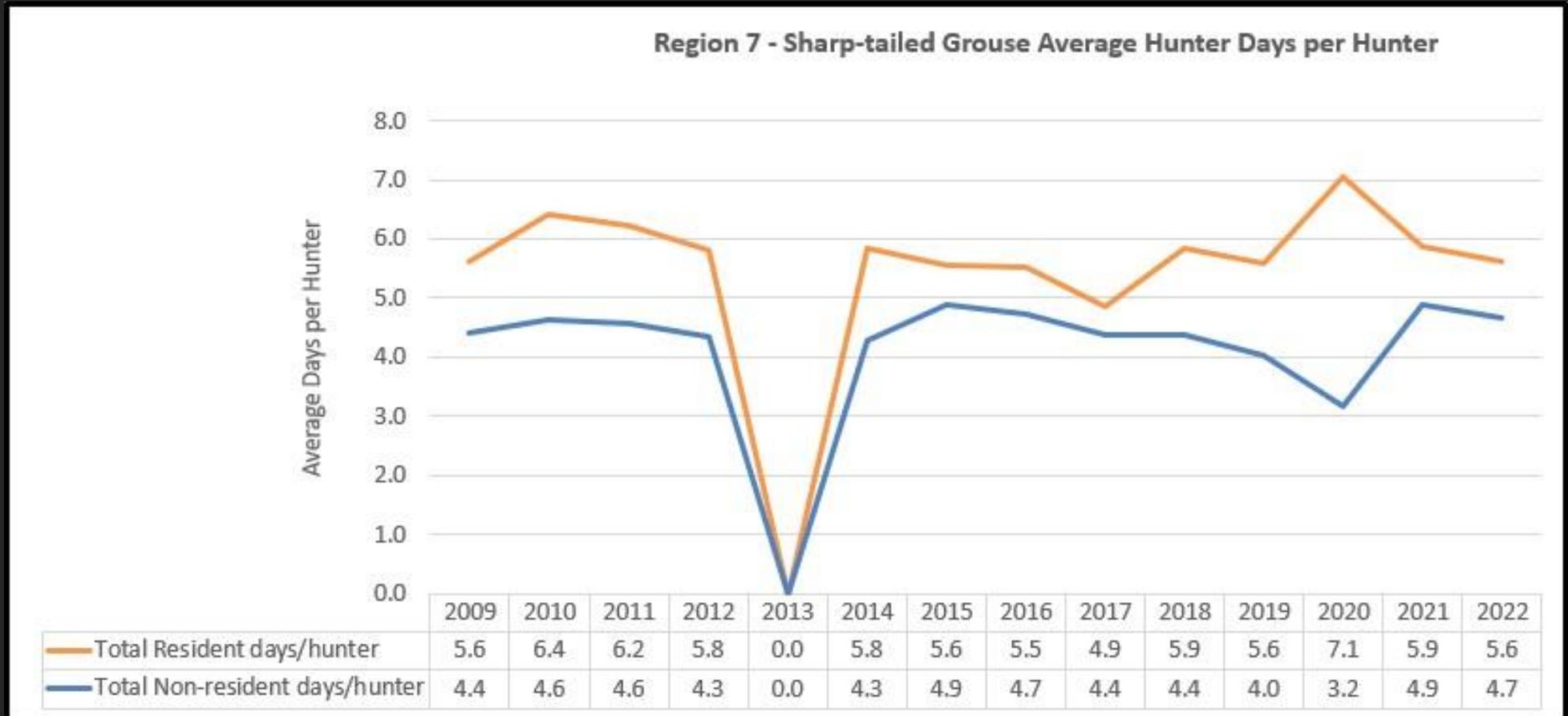
Upland Game Bird Surveys

Hunter Effort – Average Hunting Days per Hunter

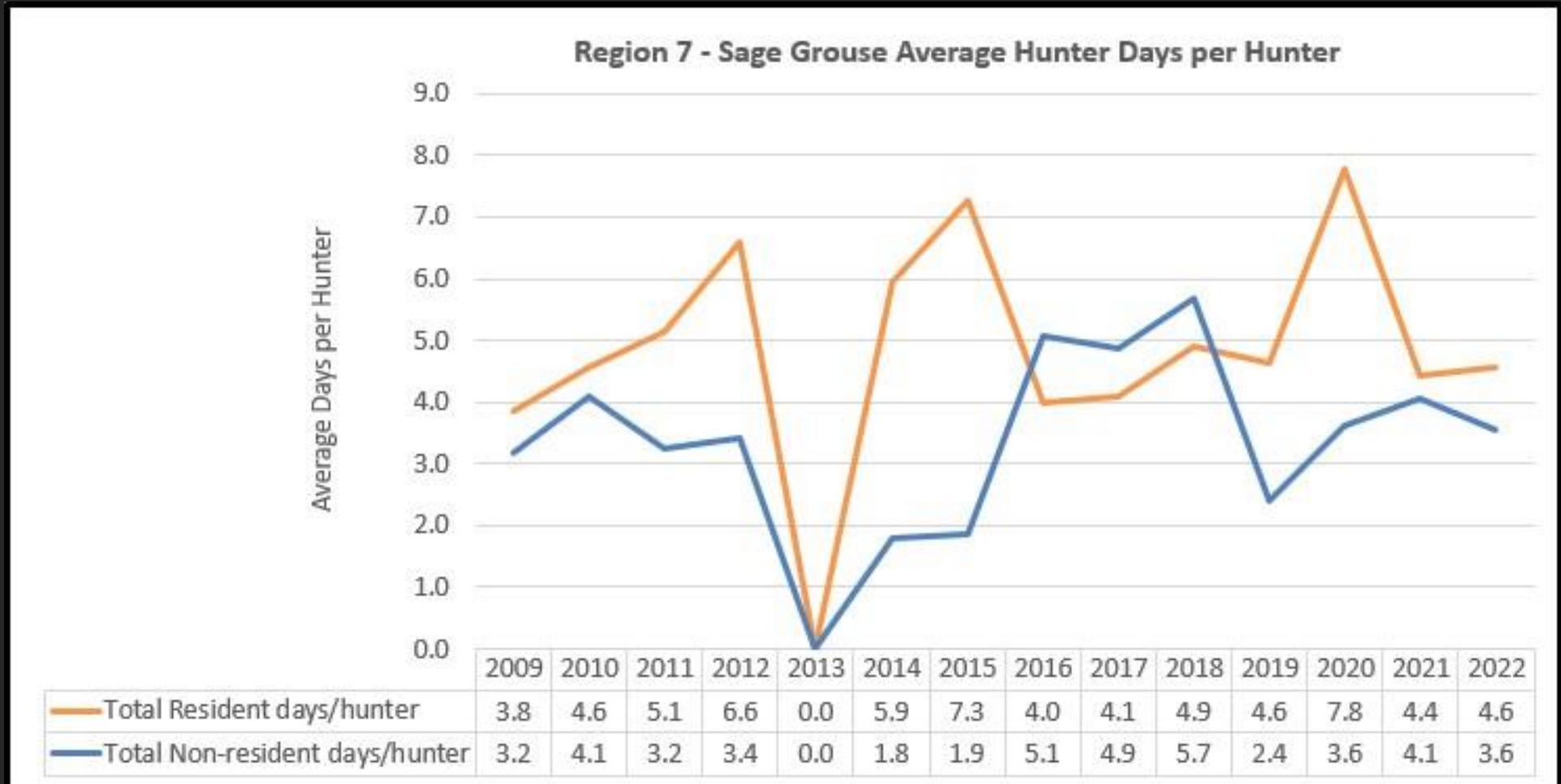


Upland Game Bird Surveys

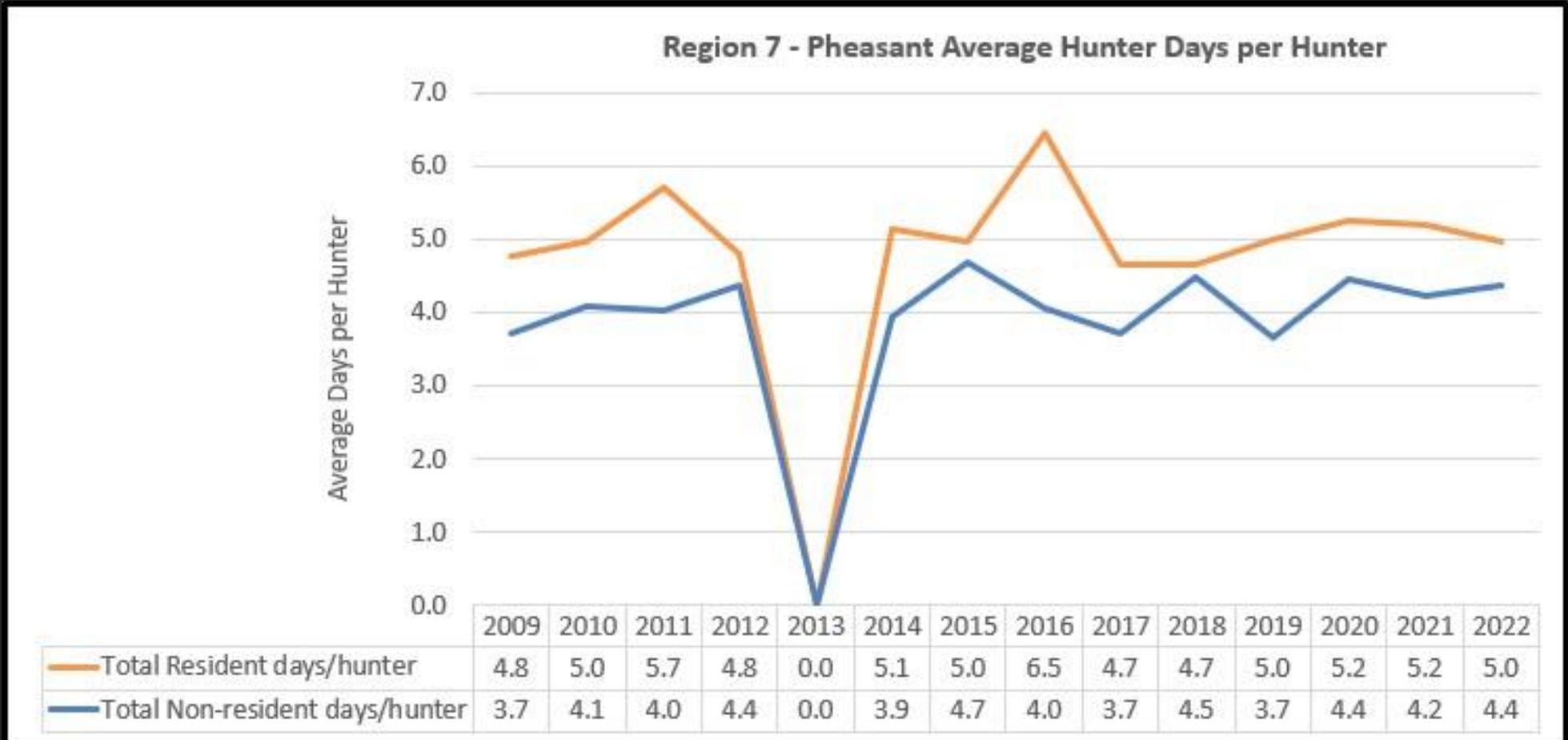
Hunter Effort – Sharp-tailed Grouse



Upland Game Bird Surveys Hunter Effort – Sage Grouse

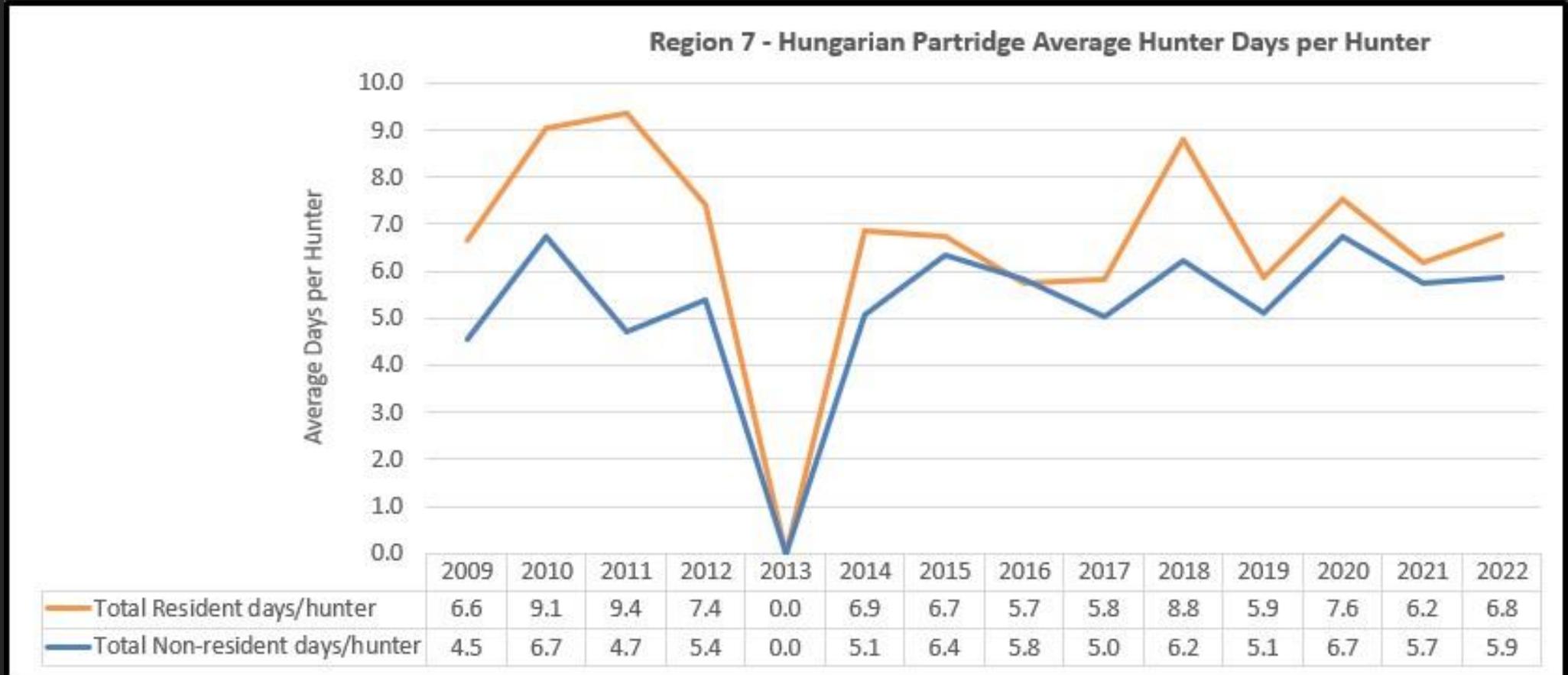


Upland Game Bird Surveys Hunter Effort – Pheasant



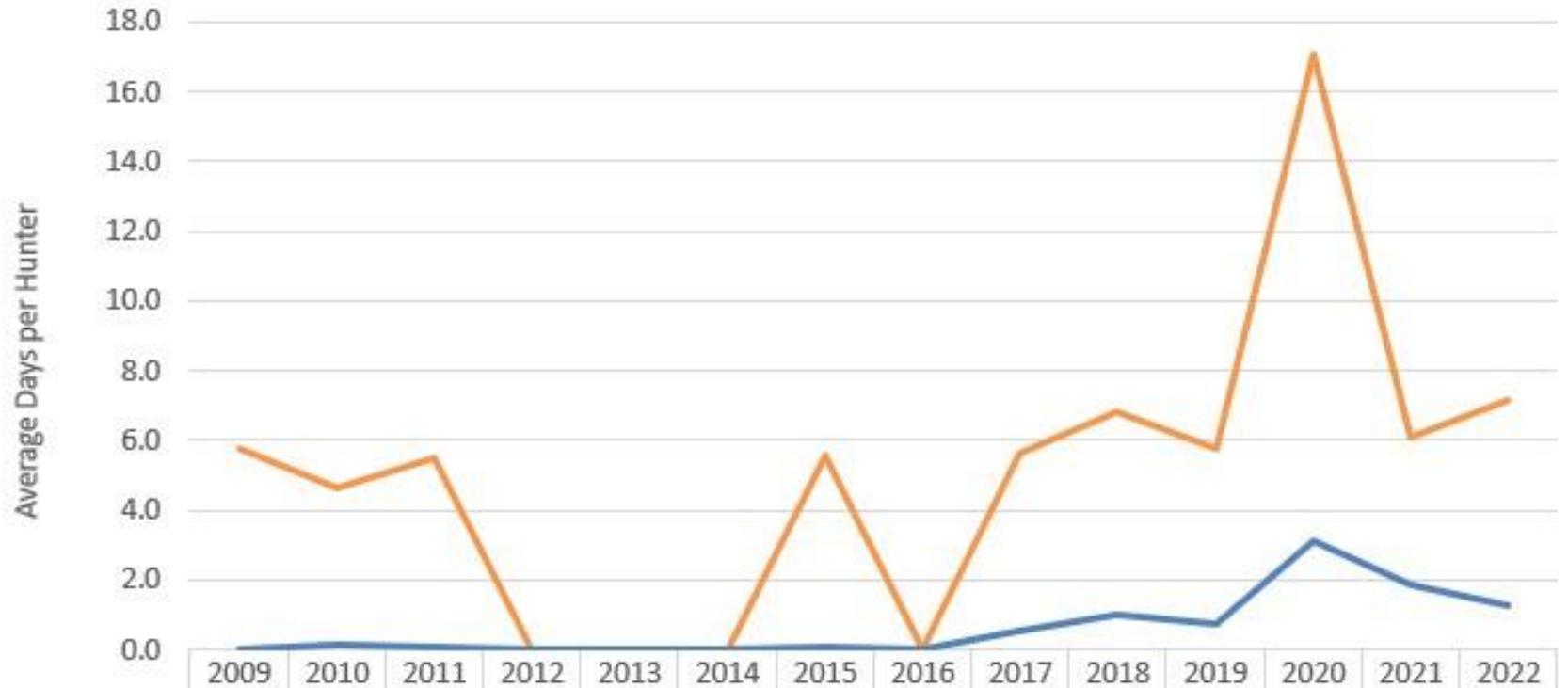
Upland Game Bird Surveys

Hunter Effort – Hungarian Partridge



Upland Game Bird Surveys Hunter Effort – Turkey (Spring)

Region 7 - Spring Turkey Average Hunter Days per Hunter



Upland Game Bird Surveys Hunter Effort – Turkey (Fall)

Region 7 - Fall Turkey Average Hunter Days per Hunter



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Resident days/hunter	4.4	4.2	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	4.6	4.9	4.3	5.1	4.7	4.6
Total Non-resident days/hunter	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.0	2.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0

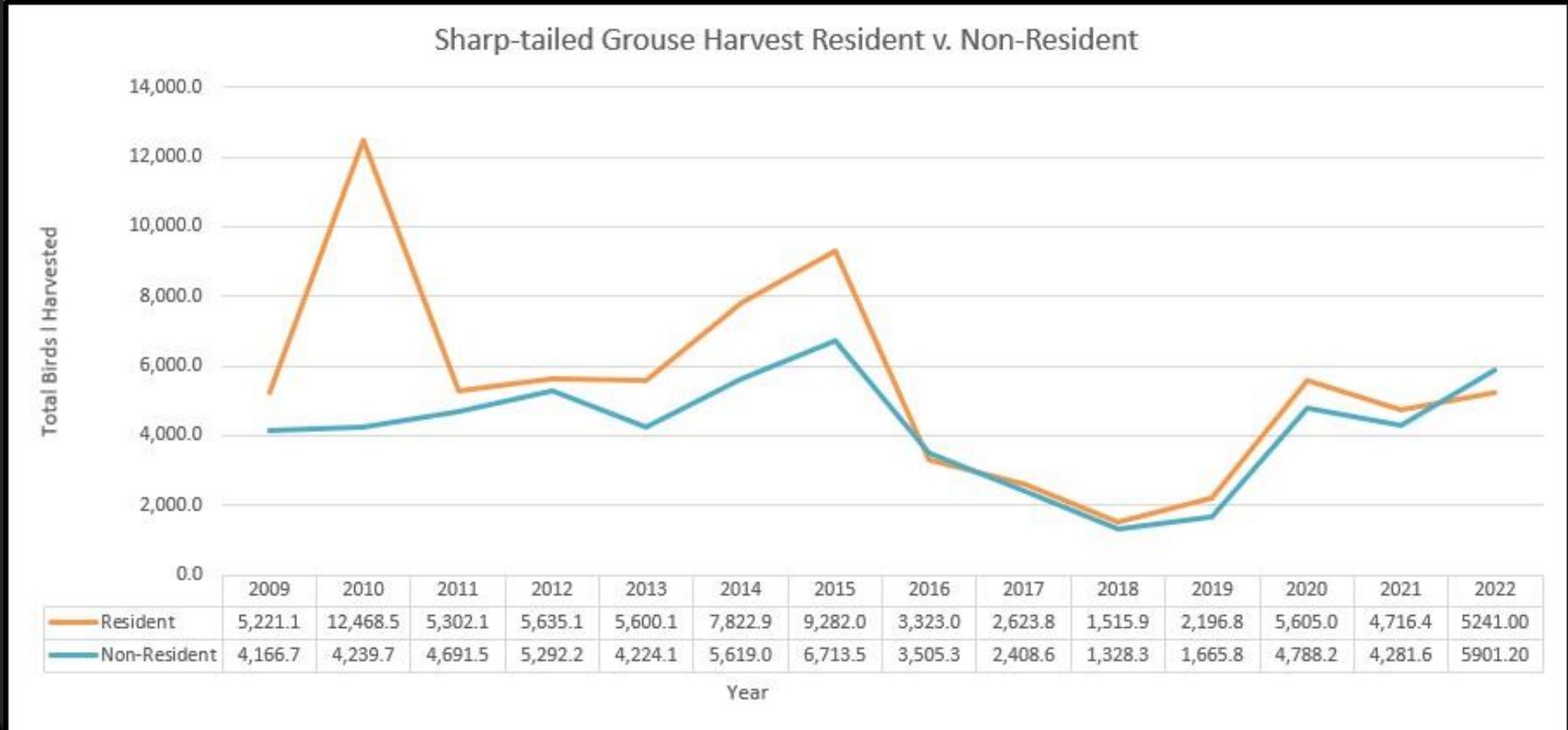


Upland Game Bird Surveys Hunter Harvest



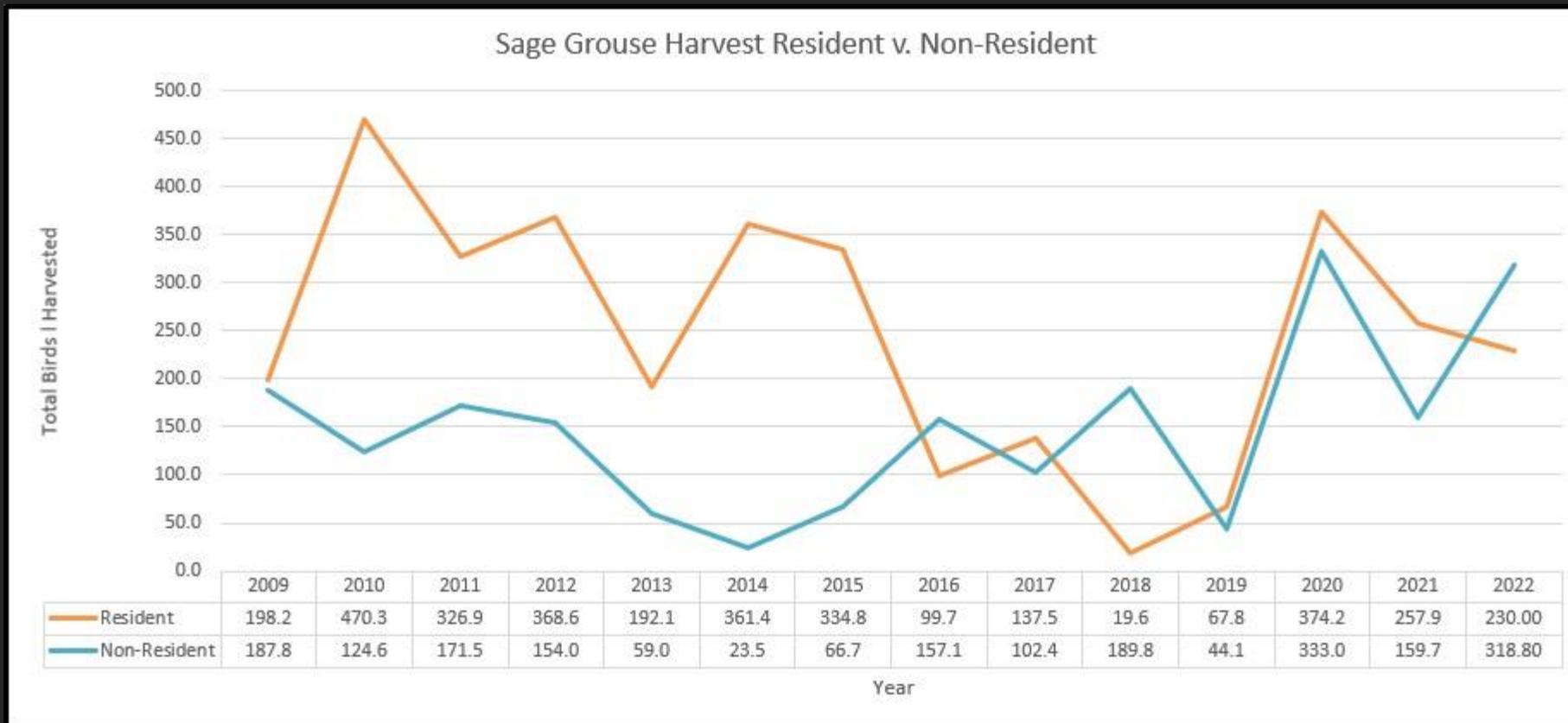
Upland Game Bird Surveys

Hunter Harvest – Sharp-tailed Grouse

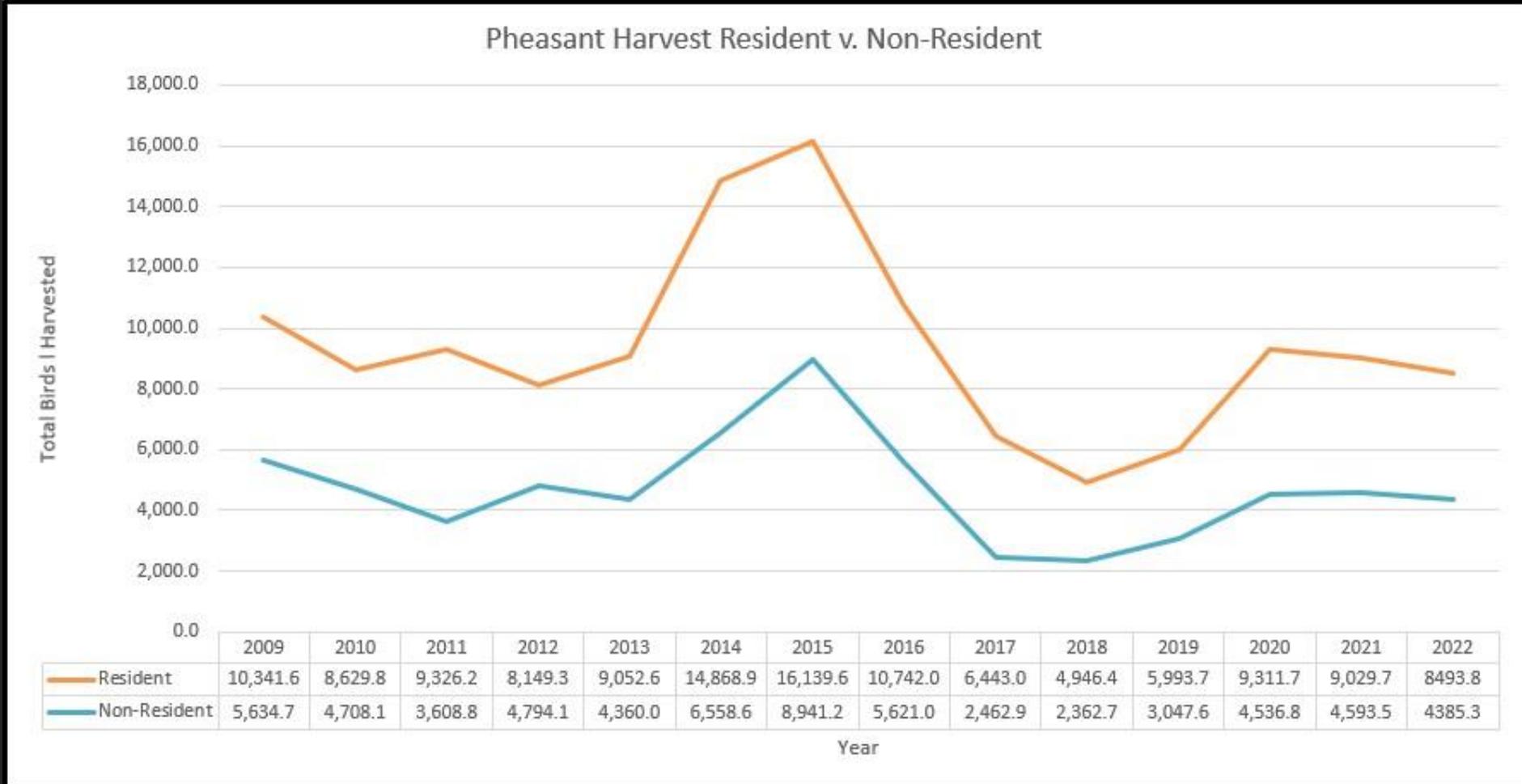


Upland Game Bird Surveys

Hunter Harvest – Sage Grouse

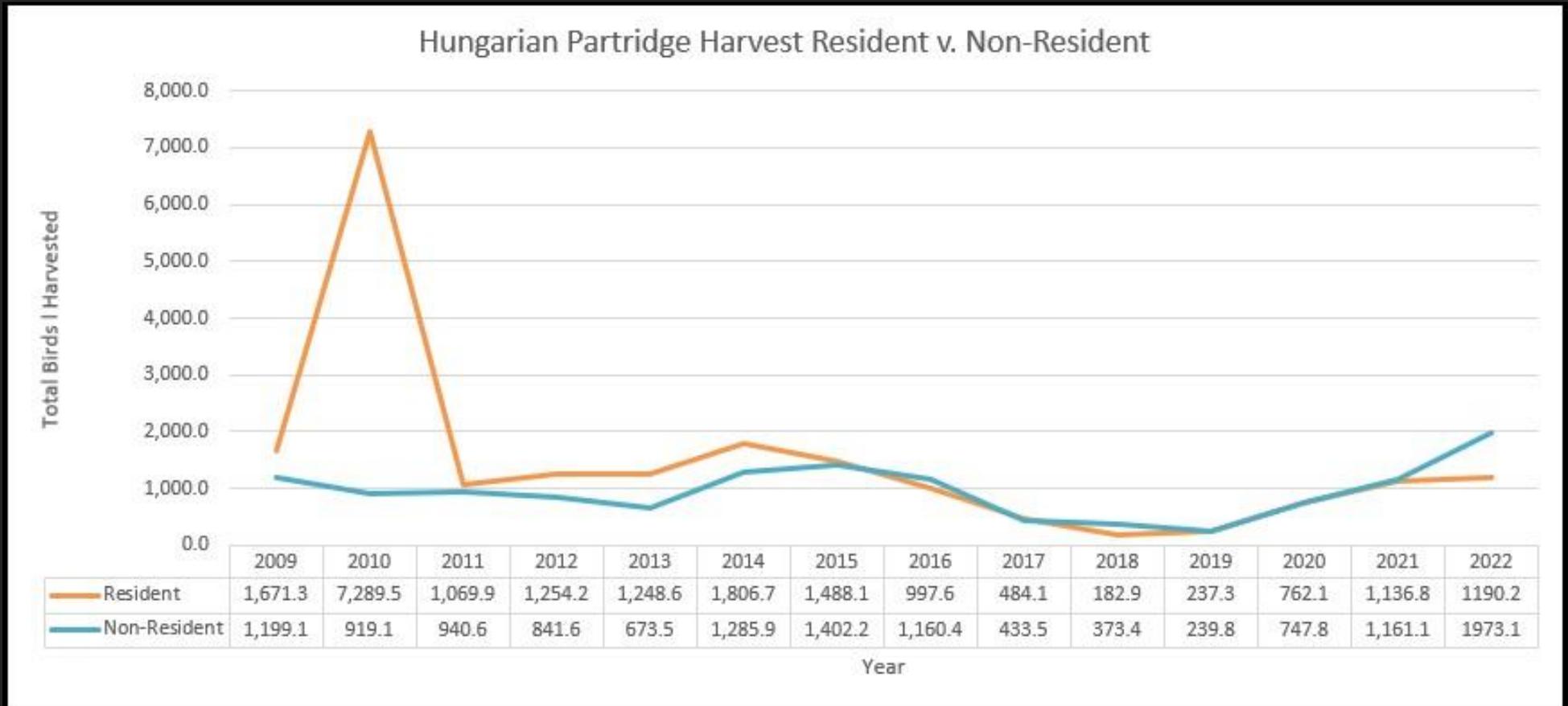


Upland Game Bird Surveys Hunter Harvest – Pheasant

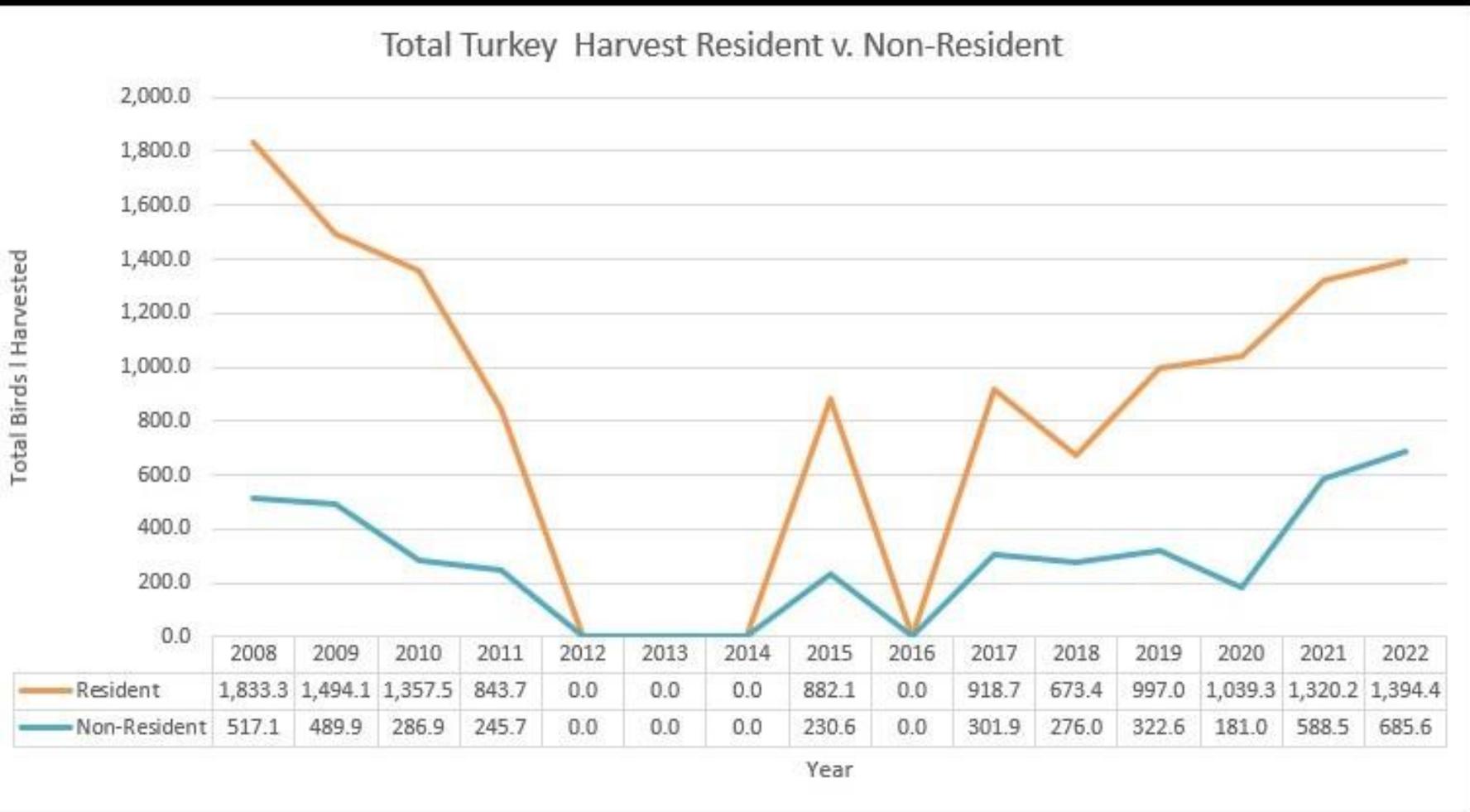


Upland Game Bird Surveys

Hunter Harvest – Hungarian Partridge



Upland Game Bird Surveys Hunter Harvest – Turkey



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE, & PARKS
10-YEAR LICENSE SALES UPLAND BIRD

LICENSE TYPE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Res. Bird	26,820	26,417	28,105	24,131	21,259	19,642	18,341	20,535	19,047	18,736	19,512
Res. Senior/Youth/Disabled Bird	1,299	1,289	1,533	12,733	11,658	10,721	10,067	10,894	10,614	10,434	10,760
Res. Sportsman (w/o bear)	19,126	19,330	18,945	23,199	23,892	24,217	24,662	26,490	29,419	28,926	29,308
Res. Sportsman (w/bear)	15,977	16,536	16,422	17,931	19,081	19,226	20,339	23,010	26,271	27,362	29,055
Res. Youth Sportsman	6,305	6,426	6,232	6,964	6,200	5,607	5,469	4,969	5,558	5,164	5,141
Res. Senior Sportsman	1,548	1,842	1,926	11,523	12,366	13,030	13,486	13,258	14,831	15,353	16,169
Military Recognition Sportsman	904	856	740	555	428	324	247	222	305	220	312
Cooperators Sportsman	629	614	607	631	622	567	549	585	954	934	930
Res. Free Youth Sportsman	5,194	4,872	4,661	1							
Total Resident Upland Bird Season	77,802	78,182	79,171	97,668	95,506	93,334	93,160	99,963	106,999	107,129	111,187
Nonres. Bird	5,144	5,215	5,590	5,419	4,318	4,213	4,328	5,328	6,291	6,792	8,001
Nonres. Bird - Youth	161	186	211	188	137	103	94	180	163	178	198
Nonres. Big Game Combo-General	12,362	12,570	12,376	12,303	11,657	12,241	11,817	11,769	11,876	11,570	11,743
Nonres. Big Game Combo-Family Sponsor	20	12	10	183	263	296	296	388	437	322	302
Nonres. Elk Combo-Family Sponsor						39	53	53	60	46	63
Nonres. Deer Combo-General	9,777	9,776	10,158	10,316	10,653	10,838	11,326	11,203	11,176	10,832	11,279
Nonres. Deer Combo-Landowner	1,284	971	960	893	884	948	1,010	857	916	950	880
Nonres. Deer Combo-Family Sponsor	20	15	12	98	128	148	192	208	215	160	142
Nonres. Elk Combo-General	2,529	2,756	4,316	4,641	4,800	4,638	5,432	5,016	5,030	4,225	5,082
Nonres. Youth Sponsored Big Game Combo	511	548	592	628	594	311	266	310	321	354	406
Nonres. Youth Sponsored Elk Combo						28	34	36	40	31	53
Nonres. Youth Sponsored Deer Combo						451	560	830	968	944	1,076
Nonres. College Student Big Game Combo	409	463	477	115	106	90	77	93	100	66	71
Nonres. College Student Elk Combo						3	4	1	4	19	12
Nonres. College Student Deer Combo						22	30	40	49	67	69
Nonres. College Student Upland Game Bird										50	96
Nonres. Cooperators Big Game Combo	123	129	136	147	147	166	178	183	187	210	204
Nonres. Native Upland Game Bird	595	653	683	73	60	53	44	46	75	47	47
Nonres. Native Big Game Combo				931	887	845	815	785	926	880	854
Nonres. Native Elk Combo						77	97	85	115	144	127
Nonres. Native Deer Combo				379	384	347	335	324	355	396	371
Total Nonresident Upland Bird Season	32,935	33,294	35,521	36,314	35,018	35,857	36,988	37,735	39,304	38,283	41,076
Nonres. 3-Day Bird Stamp-Shooting Preserve	507	479	521	505	473	505	431	409	583	539	497
Nonres. 3-Day Bird Stamp	1,911	1,989	2,432	2,539	2,200	2,112	2,007	2,356	2,869	3,035	3,491
Grand Totals	113,155	113,944	117,645	137,026	133,197	131,808	132,586	140,463	149,755	148,986	156,251

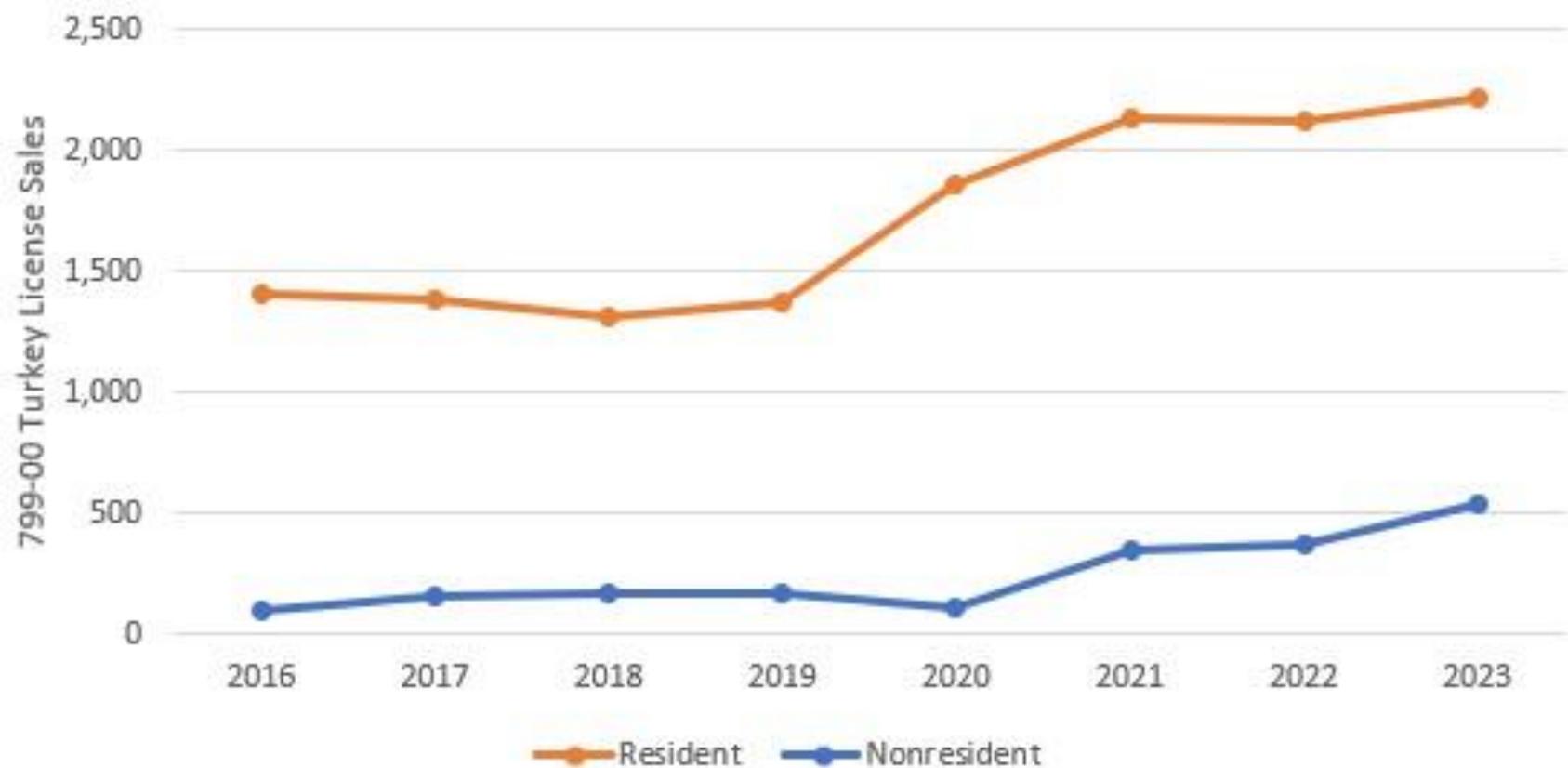


MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE, & PARKS
TURKEY LICENSE 10-YEAR LICENSE SALES

<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Res. General Turkey	25,087	24,673	27,185	20,417	20,531	21,943	21,890	25,483	28,816	29,794	30,675
Res. Regional Turkey				4,444	4,515	5,012	5,242	6,660	7,459	7,781	7,879
Res. Spring Turkey (Draw)				329	579	13	13	22	56		
Res. Fall Turkey (Draw)				348	377						
Res. Game Damage/Mgmt Turkey							9	19	10		
Total Resident	25,087	24,673	27,185	25,538	26,002	26,968	27,154	32,184	36,341	37,575	38,554
Nonres. General Turkey	990	926	980	796	930	990	1048	845	1,976	2,320	2906
Nonres. Regional Turkey				143	212	243	259	143	553	630	796
Nonres. Spring Turkey (Draw)				2	7				1		
Nonres. Fall Turkey (Draw)				5	3						
Nonres. College Student Turkey										25	26
Total Nonresident	990	926	980	946	1152	1233	1307	988	2,530	2,975	3728
Grand Totals	26,077	25,599	28,165	26,484	27,154	28,201	28,461	33,172	38,871	40,550	42,282



Region 7 Turkey License Sales for 2016 - 2023



Questions?



Steward the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources for the public, now and into the future.